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DRAGON FORCE
METRO TALKS TO STARS OF NEW THRILLER

{page 17}

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Occupy flaps and fizzles

SEAN LEDWICH/FOR METRO

▶ Terry Weaymouth inspects a removal order on an abandoned tent. The yurt in the background has also been ordered removed.

Hay-bale windbreak gets removal notice

Occupy Winnipeg is on the verge of disappearing.

On Thursday, Natural Resource Officers placed a removal notice on the group's yurt and two other tents.

Unlike similar notices issued last week, there is no reference to a re-inspection.

"This object is to be removed within 72 hours of this posting," reads the most recent notices, citing a section from the Parks Act related to abandoned objects or vehicles.

Occupier Terry Weaymouth, who was at camp for the Thursday morning visit by two officers, said officers were not negotiating.

"There was no reasoning with him today," Weaymouth said.

"I tried to tell him groups still meet in (the yurt). There's supposed to be a woman's caucus meeting in there this afternoon."

Weaymouth said an officer told him the camp has been inspected daily, as well as at night, for more than a week, and the yurt only had a single person in it on one occasion.

Weaymouth said only he and one other person are camping in Memorial Park regularly now.

A spokesperson from the province said the site will continue to be monitored for safety, security and health reasons.

SEAN LEDWICH

Internal friction

- Occupier Terry Weaymouth said the local Occupy movement has some major internal issues to overcome.
- "There's a breakdown of communication between people. There's a divide in the group already. People have sub-groups now. People are acting autonomously in their own little groups.... It's like a social thing now."
- He says decisions, especially related to the camp, are continuously put off and meetings are taken up with frivolous items like crafting "respect agreements" for occupiers to sign.
- However, fellow occupier Kristaps Balodis said he disagrees.
- "I don't see that happening. I know Terry's expressed that to me before, but the group isn't really divided. I'm not saying that there isn't that problem at all, but it's not quite as Terry makes it out to be."

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SVJETLANA MLINAREVIC/FOR METRO

▶ Premier Selinger said the province will see $7 billion in revenue from Manitoba Hydro over the next several years due to contracts with Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Manitoba is growing, but so is the deficit

SVJETLANA MLINAREVIC
WINNIPEG@METRONEWS.CA

Manitoba is a province growing in vibrancy and population, but it's also growing in debt.

Premier Greg Selinger gave his annual state of the province address to more than 1,000 business and community leaders at the Winnipeg Convention Centre Thursday.

"We're building on the assets of the province both physical and with people," said Selinger. "At the end of the day it's the people that make a difference."

He pointed to the MTS Centre, the Qualico Family Centre at Assiniboine Park, and the new Investors Group Field as examples of the growth and vibrancy within the city and the province.

But he also noted the province's flooding this year cost taxpayers $841 million, calling it the "biggest and longest duration flood in history."

That figure is still going up as compensation claims continue to pour in, he said.

It doesn't include $100 million spent to dig an emergency channel to lower the level of swollen Lake Manitoba, nor does it include the repairs necessary for damaged roads and bridges.

Although some of Manitoba's flood costs will be covered by Ottawa, the numbers are still putting a squeeze on the province, Selinger said. He wouldn't say how much the deficit is projected to be.

"Nobody should be surprised that it will be larger, given the extent of the flood this year — significantly larger," he said after his address.

Selinger said the province will invest $60 million towards developing trades training. The province will also work on improving education, especially mathematics and science, with smaller classrooms. **WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS**

First checkstop week nails 12 drunk drivers

ELISHA DACEY/METRO

▶ Const. Jason Michalyshen said the checkstop program will continue through the holidays.

Numbers similar to last year: Police Targeting bars and events

ELISHA DACEY
@METRONEWS.CA

Week 1 of the Winnipeg Police Service central traffic unit saw at least 12 drunks taken off the road.

Const. Jason Michalyshen said while he didn't have last year's exact numbers for the first week, he said they were similar.

Const. Michalyshen confirmed police are targeting bars and events where the WPS "know where individuals are consuming alcohol."

This does apply to Winnipeg Jets games, said Const. Michalyshen, but he wouldn't confirm Winnipeggers with a shiny new Jets licence plate would be watched more closely.

"We're going to be looking at many signs ... in which the manner of a vehicle is being operated," said Michalyshen, including whether a vehicle is being driven wildly, can't keep the lane, is being driven too fast or even too slow.

The checkstop program began Dec. 6 and will continue through into January.

The breakdown

- **509** vehicles were stopped.
- **56** approved screening device (ASD) tests were administered.
- **11** 24-hour suspensions were issued (ASD Warns).
- **12** drive impaired/over/refusal charges laid.
- **54** provincial-offence notices were issued.
- **3** warrants were executed.
- **1** person was arrested for breaching probation.

Second suspect arrested in homicide

HANDOUT

▶ Denver Sean Gyles

Acting on a tip from the public, police arrested a second suspect in the homicide of a Winnipeg man Thursday morning.

Denver Sean Gyles, 24, was arrested in a vehicle near Princess Street and McDermot Avenue at about 3:30 a.m. Const. Jason Michalyshen said Gyles was not driving, but did not confirm speculation the driver was the man's lawyer and the pair were on their way to police headquarters.

Gyles was charged with second-degree murder in the homicide of Sheldon Kostenko, 33.

Wednesday, police put out a plea for information on Gyles' whereabouts.

Kostenko died on Dec. 3 as a result of "extensive" upper body injuries, said Winnipeg Police Services Const. Rob Carver. He was found in an apartment building at the corner of Morley Avenue and Osborne Street. **ELISHA DACEY**

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INVESTIGATION

Homicide count goes back up to 38

WPS HANDOUT

▶ Dominique McCann

Winnipeg police confirmed Thursday the death of a 19-year-old woman is a homicide.

Police initially called Dominique McCann's death a homicide but then downgraded it to "suspicious" a few days later, leading to confusion among media and members of the public as to how many people in Winnipeg were victims of foul play.

Const. Jason Micalyshen said he couldn't comment on why her death had now been upgraded to a homicide. "Obviously, things have changed, the investigation has evolved, and I did speak to investigators ... and I wanted to confirm (her death as a homicide.)

"It is safe to say that we are investigating 38 homicides for the year."

Police said McCann was found in a home on Selkirk Avenue Dec. 2 around 4 a.m. with severe upper-body injuries. She was rushed to hospital in critical condition but later died.

Police are hoping people will come forward with details on the young woman's whereabouts from Wednesday, Nov. 30 through till when she was found.

There are still five homicides this year that have not seen any arrests, including McCann's.

ELISHA DACEY

Manitobans still the most generous: Report

ELISHA DACEY/METRO

▶ Manitobans are still the most likely Canadians to whip out their chequebooks for charity.

Canadians donated on average .064 per cent of personal income

ELISHA DACEY
@METRONEWS.CA

For the 13th year in a row, Manitobans continue to be Canada's most generous charitable donators.

The 2011 Generosity Index annual report published by the Fraser Institute shows 26 per cent of Manitoba taxpayers gave to a registered charity in 2009, and had the highest percentage of total income donated at 0.89 per cent.

However, Manitoba and the rest of Canada have some catching up to do as our neighbours to the south seem to be more willing to give their hard-earned cash to charities.

On average, 26.6 per cent of Americans donate to registered charities, while 23 per cent of Canadians do the same. Utah was the most generous, with 33.4 per cent of tax filers donating 3.09 per cent of their total income.

"By comparing the share of tax filers making charitable donations and the share of income donated to charities across North American jurisdictions, our report reveals a significant generosity gap between Canadians and Americans," said Charles Lammam, Fraser Institute senior policy analyst and co-author of the report.

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UNITED NATIONS

UN official promotes gay rights

The UN's top human rights official urged countries Thursday to abolish legal discrimination against gays, days after the U.S. government said it would use foreign aid and diplomacy to promote gay equal rights.

The UN's High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay, said governments should also outlaw all forms of abuse based on sexual orientation.

Pillay's appeal came in a report released Thursday to the 47-nation UN Human Rights Council, which in June passed the global body's first resolution condemning anti-gay discrimination. That vote was hailed by the U.S. but decried by some Muslim nations.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Russia scrambles to save whales

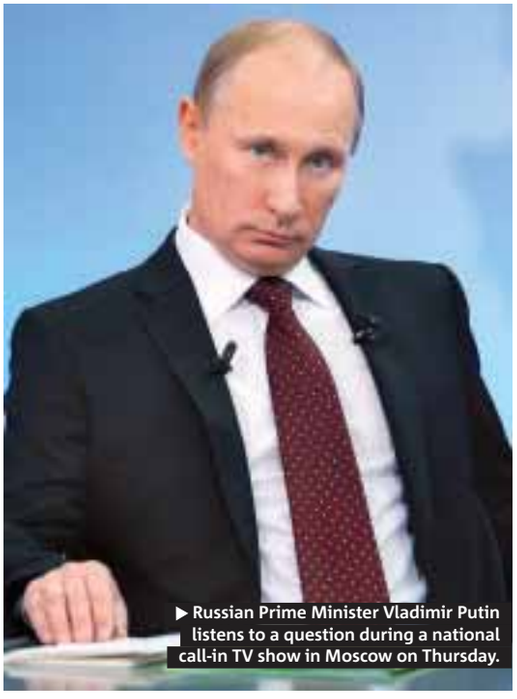
Russian agencies are trying to save some 100 beluga whales — an endangered species — that are trapped among large chunks of polar ice floating in the frigid Bering Sea.

Russia's nature protection watchdog says there is a chance that the whales might perish. Authorities say the ice is 10-15 centimetres thick and is preventing the whales from reaching the open sea where they can swim freely.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Taking to the television

ALEXEI NIKOLSKY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



▶ Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin listens to a question during a national call-in TV show in Moscow on Thursday.

Putin, opposition give no ground amid unprecedented wave of discontent over recent Russian vote

Sharp-tongued and defiant, Prime Minister Vladimir Putin denounced those protesting vote fraud as stooges of the West and insisted that Russia's national election was valid. His opponents were undeterred.

In a four-and-a-half-hour marathon call-in show on national TV, Putin aimed to erect a bulwark against a rising wave of discontent. But his disdainful tone appeared likely to only fuel more protests, after a fraud-tainted parliamentary vote Dec. 4 sparked the largest public anger Russia has seen in a generation.

He dismissed opposition claims that vote fraud had given Putin's United Russia party a majority of the seats in parliament.

The opposition was not mollified.

"The boorish, disdainful attitude toward the people that Putin demonstrated in today's television show was obvious," said Boris Nemtsov, a prominent opposition leader, in a blog post after the show.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

3,500

In a telling display of anger, the number of people who signed up on Facebook to go to the Dec. 24 rally increased from 18,000 to 21,500 just in the hours Putin was speaking.

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The doctor is in ... such a big crowd

A record 70,000 MDs are working

The number of practising doctors in Canada is at an all-time high.

Nearly 70,000 physicians were working last year, a new report shows.

The report — released Thursday by the Canadian Institute for Health Information — suggests the doctor shortage of a few years ago is being resolved.

We may even be heading for a glut if the supply of doctors isn't better managed, the report suggests.

"We have the short-term glasses on right now. We need to maybe put the long-term glasses on," said Arthur Sweetman, a health economist and a member of CHEPA — the Centre for Health Economics and Policy Analysis — at McMaster University in Hamilton.

35%

There were 203 physicians for every 100,000 Canadians in 2010, up 35 per cent from the rate in 1980.

Another report by the health statistics agency said the average family doctor grossed $239,000 in 2010. The average specialist's gross income was $341,000.

But these gross incomes cover not just the doctor's salary, but the cost of running his or her office.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Homecoming. Afghan stint ends

▶ Capt. Steph Barteaux is hugged by her dad Bruce and mom Bonnie after arriving in Ottawa on Thursday.

SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Soldier returns to her family's loving arms

The sign says it all: Welcome home – and thanks for a job well done. Brig.-Gen. Charles Lamaree and his staff arrived at the Canadian Reception Centre in Ottawa on Thursday, ending their stint in Afghanistan. They were the last Canadian soldiers to leave Kandahar, signifying the close of Operation ATHENA, Canada's longest combat mission in Afghanistan. Now Canada is concentrating on a training mission in Kabul.

MacKay lived like a king in Europe, group says

The Canadian Taxpayers Federation is accusing Defence Minister Peter MacKay of living like a king while he attended conferences in Europe.

The group said Thursday it used access-to-information requests to uncover hotel bills that show MacKay spent $1,452 a night for a two-night stay at a hotel in Munich and $770 a night for three nights in Istanbul.

Gregory Thomas, national director of the group, said MacKay's staff had rooms in the same Munich hotel for $276 a night.

But the federation's complaints may be misdirected. MacKay was attending an annual security conference, held at Munich's Hotel Bayerischer Hof in February 2010.

▶ A new fuss for Peter MacKay: He's accused of high spending while in Europe.

Senior federal officials said MacKay stayed at the hotel at the request of the German government, along with all other heads of delegation. "The organizers wanted and insisted upon that," said a Foreign Affairs source.

Thomas said his group filed an access request after it was revealed MacKay had an air force helicopter pick him up from a fishing lodge in Newfoundland.

"Going on the basis there's never only one cockroach, we just thought we'd, you know, look at some … of the minister's other travel expenses."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Tower. Skate

▶ Ice skaters slide on the ice rink set 57 metres above the ground on the Eiffel Tower in Paris.

FRANCOIS MORI/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paris puts tourists on ice

Lodged between two of the Eiffel Tower's immense latticed steel legs, Paris's new ice rink is not big at 200 square metres, but adds a new dimension to the views from Paris' best-known landmark. It will remain open until Jan. 31, 2012.

Reasons for Knox verdict revealed

Italian court of appeals cited evidence that didn't hold up as reason the American was cleared of murder

LUCA BRUNO/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Amanda Knox.

The Italian appeals court that cleared Amanda Knox in the slaying of her British roommate gave the reasons for its ruling on Thursday: the evidence that had been used by a lower court to convict the American and her Italian boyfriend of murder just didn't hold up.

Those shortcomings included no murder weapon, faulty DNA, an inaccurate time for the killing, and insufficient proof that Knox and Raffaele Sollecito were even at the location where the crime occurred. So said the Perugia appellate court in its long-awaited reasoning behind its October ruling that reversed the lower court's convictions.

Meredith Kercher was found slain in her bedroom floor in Perugia, Italy, on Nov. 2, 2007.

Knox and Sollecito, who had begun dating at the time of the murder, were arrested several days later, then convicted in what prosecutors portrayed as a drug-fuelled sexual assault. They were sentenced to 26 and 25 years, respectively.

On Thursday, the appellate cited among the other failed elements of the prosecutors' case DNA evidence, which was undermined during a re-examination in the appeals trial, and the failure to conclusively identify the murder weapon. The appellate court contradicted the lower court's time of death, saying it happened at around 10:15 p.m., not after 11 p.m. The court said the "building blocks" used to construct the case failed or were missing.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RCMP investigates shooting deaths in murder-suicide

Four people were killed in southern Alberta and a fifth person was in hospital in hospital in what RCMP are calling a murder-suicide.

Mounties were called around 3:30 a.m. Thursday after residents of Claresholm, south of Calgary, reported hearing gunshots.

Officers found a car and an SUV on the side of Highway 2 and five people, all in their early 20s.

"It was pretty horrific," said RCMP Sgt. Patrick Webb. "We now have a total of four deceased from that incident and one female, who is in hospital, injured, but expected to recover."

Webb said the shooter gunned down his victims before turning the gun on himself. The people he shot included a woman and man who died at the scene and a third man who died of his wounds in hospital.

Webb said police have tentatively identified the dead but have not released names pending a review by the medical examiner.

RCMP declined to release any information of the weapon used or a possible motive for the shootings.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Weather could make enemies of polar bears

They're etched onto our coins, are part of our national identity and lure tourists to the Arctic every year, but the majestic Canadian polar bear could pose a significant risk to northern communities if climate change continues to wreak havoc on its natural habitat.

"It's potentially quite serious in terms of human-bear interactions," says Ian Stirling, an Edmonton-based scientist with the Canadian Wildlife Service who has studied polar bears for 41 years.

"It's a big problem in northern communities, it already is. They're killing 30, 40, 50 problem bears a year in the Canadian Arctic because they're threatening human life or property."

The adjunct professor at the University of Alberta wants to drive home the point that action is needed to combat the climate change, which has the potential to turn the typically mild-mannered mammals into a risk.

In his new book, Polar Bears: The Natural History of a Threatened Species, Stirling says the biggest threat to the bears is an increasingly warming climate, which is causing earlier and more widespread melting of northern sea ice.

The ice is crucial to the bears because it serves as a hunting platform to access their primary food sources — particularly ringed seal pups. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ A polar bear mother and her two cubs walk along the shore of Hudson Bay near Churchill, Man., in this Nov. 7, 2007, photo.

U.S. marks end of mission in Iraq

Troops end presence with small service Iraqis' future uncertain

There was no Mission Accomplished banner. No victory parade down the centre of this capital scarred and rearranged by nearly nine years of war. No crowds of cheering Iraqis grateful for liberation from Saddam Hussein.

Instead, the U.S. military officially declared an end to its mission in Iraq on Thursday with a businesslike closing ceremony behind blast walls in a fortified compound at Baghdad airport. The flag used by U.S. forces in Iraq was lowered and boxed up in a 45-minute ceremony. No senior Iraqi political figures attended.

With that, and brief words from top U.S. officials who flew in under tight security still necessary because of the ongoing violence, the U.S. drew the curtain on a war that left 4,500 Americans and more than 100,000 Iraqis dead.

The conflict also left another 32,000 Americans and far more Iraqis wounded, drained more than $800 billion from America's treasury and soured a majority of Americans on a war many initially supported as a just extension of the fight against terrorism after the 9-11 attacks.

As the last troops withdraw from Iraq, they leave behind a nation free of Saddam's tyranny but fractured by violence and fearful of the future. Bombings and gun battles are still common. And experts are concerned about the Iraqi security forces' ability to defend the nation against foreign threats."You will leave with great pride — lasting pride," Defence Secretary Leon Panetta told troops. "Secure in knowing that your sacrifice has helped the Iraqi people to begin a new chapter in history." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVAIS/POOL/AP PHOTOS

▶ U.S. Command Sgt. Major Joseph R. Allen, left, and U.S. army Gen. Lloyd Austin, commander of U.S. Forces Iraq, wrap up a flag used by the U.S. forces in Iraq during a ceremony in Baghdad on Thursday.

Reaction

- **Some Iraqis celebrated** the exit of what they called American occupiers and others said that while grateful for U.S. help ousting Saddam, the war went on too long. A majority of Americans would agree, according to opinion polls.
- **"With this withdrawal,** the Americans are leaving behind a destroyed country," said Mariam Khazim, a Shiite whose father was killed by a mortar shell.
- **"The Americans did not** leave modern schools or big factories behind them. Instead, they left thousands of widows and orphans. The Americans did not leave a free people and country behind them; in fact, they left a ruined country and a divided nation."
- **"The American ceremony** represents the failure of the U.S. occupation of Iraq due to the great resistance of the Iraqi people," said lawmaker Amir al-Kinani.

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Jacques Chirac found guilty

Judge finds former president guilty of corruption during days as mayor of Paris Avoids jail time

As French president, Jacques Chirac was called all sorts of names, not the least for his vociferous opposition to the U.S.-led war in Iraq. Now, he has a moniker that will stick: Convicted criminal.

The avuncular 79-year-old on Thursday became France's first former leader to be convicted since Marshal Philippe Petain, who headed the Nazi collaborationist regime during the Second World War, in 1945. Chirac will not go to prison, but received a two-year suspended sentence for corruption linked to his 18-year term as the mayor of Paris.

In a statement hours after the decision, Chirac said though he "categorically contest(ed)" the verdict, he would not appeal. Despite the "pain and the profound sadness this verdict has inflicted," the statement said, "I sadly no longer have the necessary strength to lead before new judges the combat for the truth."

CHRISTOPHE ENA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

▶ This Feb. 24, 2007, file photo shows ex-president Jacques Chirac at the Elysee Palace.

He said that as mayor, "it is up to me and me alone to take responsibility," but stressed that "above all, I affirm with honour: I cannot be blamed for anything."

Chirac was found guilty in two related cases involving 19 totally or partially fake jobs created for his benefit at the RPR party, which he led as Paris mayor from 1977 to 1995. He was convicted of embezzling public funds, abuse of trust and illegal conflict of interest. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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China. Choco-chic

▶ A model shows off clothing partially made of chocolate during a chocolate fashion show in Shanghai on Thursday.

EUGENE HOSHIKO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fashioned from chocolate

More than money at stake in developing Arctic: Report

Melting of permafrost due to climate change affecting infrastructure

Governments and businesses are being advised they must look beyond immediate economic benefits when it comes to paying for roads, ports and rail lines in the Arctic.

The Conference Board of Canada said in a report released Thursday that even though such projects are more expensive to build and maintain than they would be in the south, they're still worth it.

"If you've got an all-weather road into a community, it's a lot easier and cheaper to get goods and people into and out of those communities than if you're dependent on a winter road that's only open for an increasingly short number of weeks," said David Stewart-Patterson, the think-tank's vice-president.

"But it's not just about access to economic opportunities. It's access to essential public services."

NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

▶ A speed-limit sign along the road near the Meadowbank gold mine in Nunavut.

Canada's North is poorly served by transportation infrastructure. Aside from private roads built for specific resource projects, Nunavut has only 21 kilometres of all-weather road in the entire territory. It has only one harbour, despite the fact almost all its communities are along shorelines.

The northern reaches of the provinces face similar limitations. The report says 25,000 people in northern Manitoba depend entirely on winter roads, the season for which is shrinking yearly. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market moment

PRICES AS OF 5 P.M. THURSDAY

TSX	Dollar
- 38.63 (11,504.42)	+ $0.36¢ (96.55¢ US)

Oil	Natural gas
- $1.08 US ($93.87 US)	$3.127 US (- 0.9¢ US)

Gold $1,577.20 US (- 9.70 US)

Another jump towards a sellers' market

Canadian home sales and prices jumped again in November but the number of listings dropped off, pushing the sector closer to a sellers' market that could boost competition for a sparse selection of homes.

Home resales rose six per cent last month on a year-over-year basis and jumped 0.5 per cent on a seasonally adjusted basis compared to October levels, the Canadian Real Estate Association said Thursday.

November marked the third straight month that national activity on its Multiple Listing Service was up from the one before. The national average price increased 4.6 per cent year-over-year to $360,396.

And while prices continue to rise, CREA noted that November's increase was the smallest jump since January. Meanwhile, the number of newly listed homes was down 3.4 per cent from October to November — the largest single-month decline of the year.

The latest signs pointing toward a market that favours sellers stand in stark contrast to predictions earlier this year that demand would drop off, giving buyers a break from rapidly rising prices.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

▶ People walk past new homes that are for sale in Oakville, Ont.

Household debt

- Heavy borrowing activity signals dark clouds on the horizon for some households as debt reaches record levels — as much as 153 per cent of disposable incomes, according to data released earlier this week.
- The most over-leveraged Canadians could find themselves unable to cope when interest rates eventually rise, Finance Minister Jim Flaherty has warned.

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A PIECE OF (EXPLETIVE) IN THEIR STOCKING

THE METRO LIST

PAUL SULLIVAN
METRO

We're makin' a list, checkin' it twice.
So you're gonna find out who's naughty and nice … which is especially important this time of year.

1 **Justin Trudeau** has been very naughty. The son of former Prime Potty Mouth Pierre Trudeau (remember "fuddle duddle"?) demonstrates that the rotten apple doesn't fall very far from the tree as he loses it in question period and refers to Environment Minister Peter Kent as the four-letter version of a piece of excrement. At least he's efficient.

2 **Canadians** confirm they are the world's most boring people by making the census and Canada Post their two fastest-rising Google searches. While the rest of the world made 14-year-old pop curiosity Rebecca Black their fastest-rising search for Friday, dubbed by critics as "the worst song ever," we're looking into overnight delivery and number of adults per household. We're soooo nice. Sigh.

3 **The Protester** is Time Magazine's Person of the Year. OK, you've occupied our media and our minds for the requisite 15 minutes. Time to lay down your pitchforks and your torches and go back to your farms and families. You've been naughty for a noble cause.

4 **Albert Pujols** has agreed to play baseball for the Los Angeles Angels for the next 10 years. In return the team has agreed to pay him $50,000 every time he steps up to the plate, even though his batting average has lost more than 50 points since the 2008 season. Nice! Albert Pujols is definitely a member of the one per cent. How come nobody tries to Occupy the Dugout?

5 **The Artist**, the silent movie, leads the Golden Globe nominations with six. Silence is, er, golden. Meanwhile, last weekend was the worst in modern box-office history. Is there a pattern here? Fortunately the notoriously naughty Robert Downey Jr. opens this week as Sherlock Holmes in A Game of Shadows. As the main competition is Alvin and the Chipmunks, Sherlock's duel with Professor Moriarty, the Nabob of Naughty, expects to gross more than $50 million.

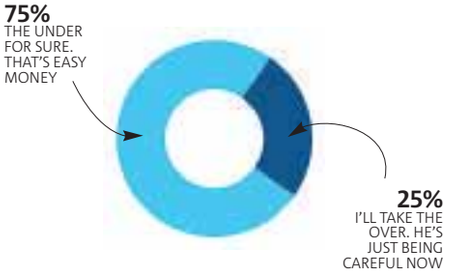
6 **The Higgs boson** has made it a pretty nice week for science nerds as the VBEM (Very Big Expensive Machine) at CERN in Switzerland has identified tantalizing hints that the Holy Grail of physics, a.k.a. the God particle, the elemental building block of Everything, exists. They seek it here; they seek it there; that damned elusive particle. Stay tuned for the exciting conclusion early in 2012.

7 **Justin Bieber** is the most searched image on Google in 2011. Overexposed. And not in a nice way.

Metro Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

Bodog has set the over-under for games played by Sidney Crosby at 38.5. What would you take?



Local tweets

- **@PaulLaPolice:** Going to my first @NHLJets game tonight. Got my jets hat and shirt. Let's make it loud!! go jets go Coach #whatthehellisicing
- **@soldowcioa8:** Anyone who boos Teemu in Winnipeg should be stoned to death with 76 pucks. Each.
- **@MandyMarchak:** -22 with the wind chill isnt exactly ideal for a run outside...this is just the begining! #bringonthesnow #Winnipeg! #homesweethome.
- **@DJWattaboi:** Just remembered that I own an Atlanta Thrashers jersey. Now that the team is the Winnipeg Jets now, I guess I can consider it retro.
- **@JoeVanOs:** In Winnipeg and a "Go jets go" rap song is playing on the radio. Lol wow.
- **@VBeePeg:** No bullies are welcome at school. Well neither at work! Come on you guys GROW UP. #thisisnothighschool #Winnipeg #peace
- **@StateOfTheYuen:** #Reading in a moving vehicle makes me nauseous, but this book is so good #knowfornexttime #thegirlwiththedragontattoo

Daily Zoom

LOS ANGELES COUNTY-USC MEDICAL CENTER /THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tiny baby beats enormous odds

Second-smallest baby in the U.S.

Melinda Guido is pictured shortly after her birth in late August with the hand of Dr. Rangasamy Ramanathan as a comparison. Melinda was born at 24 weeks weighing 9.5 ounces.

She's believed to be the second smallest baby to survive in the U.S.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Girl Power

- Most tiny babies who survive tend to be female because female fetuses mature faster than males.
- The smallest surviving baby, born weighing 9.2 ounces, is now a healthy seven-year-old. Another who weighed 9.9 ounces at birth is an honours college student.

"The first few weeks, it was touch and go. None of us thought the baby was going to make it."

DR. RANGASAMY RAMANATHAN

Two more weeks

Dr. Rangasamy Ramanathan predicted at least another two-week stay at the Los Angeles County-USC Medical Center for the premature baby, dashing her parents' hopes of taking her home by Christmas. Melinda can breathe by herself, but still uses an oxygen tube as a precaution.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

metro

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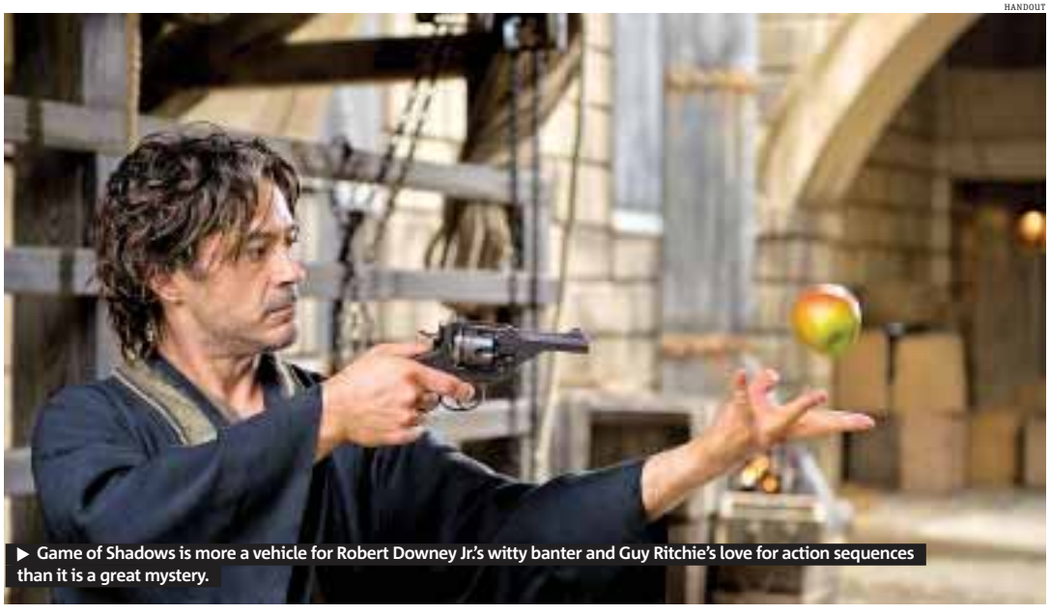
Synopsis

The puzzle at the heart of Sherlock Holmes: Game of Shadows begins with the death of the Crown Prince of Austria. Written off as a suicide, Holmes (Robert Downey Jr) deduces there is more to the story. Enter Watson (Jude Law), who should be on his honeymoon, a beautiful fortune-teller (Noomi Rapace, the original girl with the dragon tattoo), the evil Moriarty and more intrigue than you can shake a deerstalker hat at. This week the game's afoot with Reel Guy Ned Ehrbar!

Ratings:
Richard: ⊕⊕½
Ned: ⊕⊕⊕

HANDOUT



▶ Game of Shadows is more a vehicle for Robert Downey Jr.'s witty banter and Guy Ritchie's love for action sequences than it is a great mystery.

Elementary plot

Game of Shadows is light on the storyline, but heavy on action and witty banter

Reel Guys
RICHARD CROUSE & MARK BRESLIN
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

Richard: Ned, there is no question that RDJ and Law bring a certain joie de vivre to the usually staid portrayal of the great detective and his loyal sidekick. They look like they're having a ball, probably more fun than the audience, in fact. As enjoyable as it is to watch these two riff off one another it soon becomes clear the whole movie is nothing more than a vehicle for their banter.

Ned: The banter is delightful, there's no denying that. But when they're not sniping at each other, you start to notice the plot doesn't really measure up to a detective of Holmes' stature — or offer any original ideas. Basically, if you don't want the movie spoiled for you, wipe the League of Extraordinary Gentlemen from your memory, as Moriarty's scheme is exactly the same in both movies. I'm assuming the filmmakers are banking on no one remembering that movie, though — which is a safe bet — but still.

RC: Agreed, if you can figure out the story. Confused and confusing, the plot zips along at such a rapid pace you'll barely know it doesn't make much sense because director Guy Ritchie fills the screen with wildly edited scenes anchored by Downey's flamboyant performance. It looks cool and will make you laugh occasionally, but the quips and extravagantly edited sequences are only fun in the moment. They don't add up to much of a movie.

NE: Some of those cool-looking scenes can grate, as well. A little bit of the Sherlock slow-mo fight analysis goes a long way, but since it got such a good reaction in the first film, Ritchie lays on the bullet time a little thick here. One element that did work for me though was Jared Harris' Moriarty, a dangerously brilliant villain with a plausible cover story as a mild-mannered professor. It's a shame he's not in the movie more, though.

RC: Harris has one seminal psycho moment — is there anything crazier than belting out an aria while torturing your nemesis? — but I didn't think Noomi Repace, while eye catching as Sim, was given enough to do to be truly memorable.

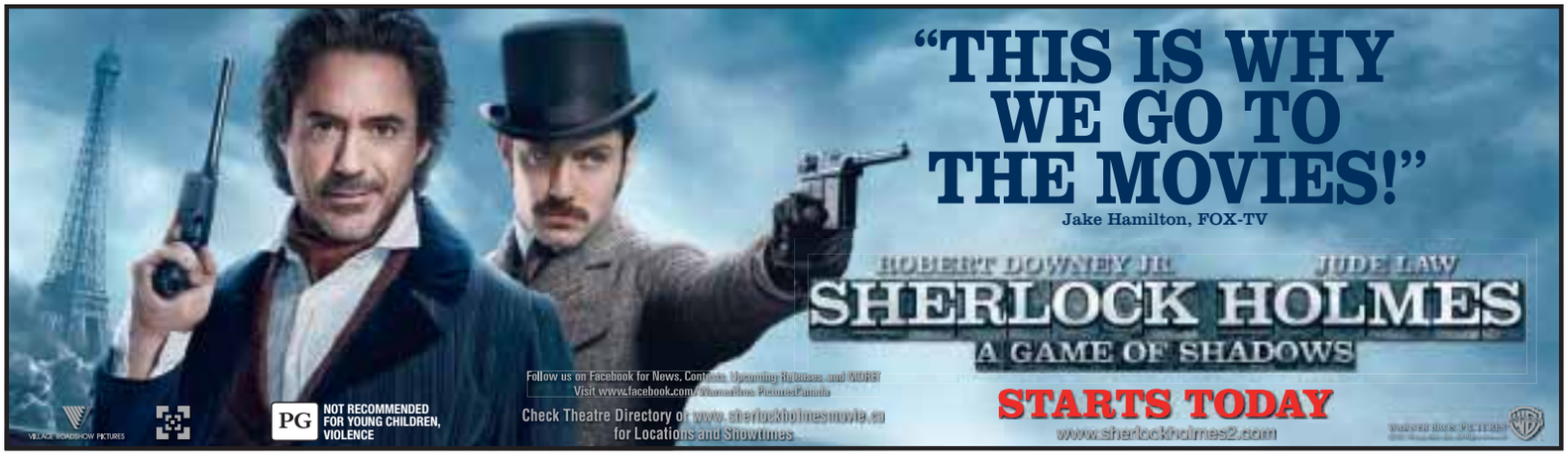
NE: True, she doesn't get much to do besides react to the dynamic duo's chicanery and drop helpful reminders about the plot. And the less said about RJD on a pony, the better. Still, audiences could do a lot worse.

2 scene

Scene in brief

Howard Stern will be joining the judges' panel on America's Got Talent, and the NBC summer talent show will uproot itself from Los Angeles to accommodate the New York-based shock jock, the network said Thursday. NBC confirmed weeks-old rumours of Stern's selection to join fellow Talent judges Howie Mandel and Sharon Osbourne.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Candy Spelling packs up, leaves Spelling Manor — the house that TV built — in HGTV special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Tintin's character rings true for Bell

Actor Jamie Bell talks about his childhood fascination with Hergé's detective Tintin a 'beacon of excellence'

RICHARD CROUSE
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

Legend has it that when Steven Spielberg offered Jamie Bell the lead role in The Adventures of Tintin, the actor looked the Hollywood legend in the eye and said, "I'll have to think about it."

"What is true is that he said, 'If you were to be Tintin it would be about five years of your life. Are you comfortable with that?' To me, as a 16-year-old, five years was a really long time (he's 24 now). So I didn't want to be the naïve actor and say, 'OK, I'm fine with that. I wanted to really consider it. I don't even think I said I'd think about it, I just didn't give a definitive answer.

"For me it was more important to be sitting down at a table with him. Just sharing a Hollywood meeting with him was awesome. To me, as a child, he was otherworldly. He was a Houdini character who made dinosaurs live and boys fly on bicycles."

Bell, who first won hearts as the lead in coming-of-age-dance movie Billy Elliot, says getting to make the movie with Spielberg has "remarkable synergy" because "Tintin was one of his favourite childhood things."

Originally, he simply enjoyed the characters, he says, but there was something special that set the stories about the young detective apart from other kid's comics.

"It was different from all the other cartoons. I felt respected, as a kid, by Tintin. That allowed me to gravitate toward him and go on his adventures.

"I was a very inquisitive kid," he says. "I used to watch a lot of political satire comedy shows. I'm sure I had no idea what they were talking about, but they were funny to me. Grown-ups making fun of other grown-ups was hilarious.

"So when I read Tintin and he was travelling around the world solving political corruption, I just knew what was going on."

HANDOUT

▶ The Adventures of Tintin channels the spirit of the beloved books.

The film grabs the spirit of the beloved books, bringing some of the intensity — and mild violence — of the original Hergé books to the screen.

"If Tintin wasn't the beacon of excellence that he is," says Bell, "if he wasn't the guy with the correct moral compass, if he wasn't so innocently earnest all the time, I think that could be an issue.

"But because the character at the front is such a great, natural and instinctual heroic character, I think you kind of get away with it."

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JOEL AMOS, MOVIEFANATIC.COM

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GETTY IMAGES

DANIEL CRAIG AND ROONEY MARA

In exclusive one-on-ones, Metro interviewed the stars of this season's most anticipated film, asking what they think of one another, the book's dark tone and Bond, James Bond

THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO Q+A

Rape. Murder. Freezing cold weather. Happy holidays from the team behind The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo, the latest adaptation of Stieg Larsson's international bestseller.

The book — about a journalist (Daniel Craig) who investigates a dysfunctional family's murder mystery, with help from anti-social hacker Lisbeth Salander (Rooney Mara) —has already spawned a successful Swedish film trilogy.

For Craig and Mara, it was a chance to work closely with director David Fincher. Mara appeared in his The Social Network. Tattoo is generating similar Oscar buzz, but it's not without its share of controversy and critics, thanks to some startlingly frank and sexual subject matter.

The set was lighthearted, though. As were the two actors at our chat….

DANIEL CRAIG

Now that you've played a journalist, do you have any more sympathy for journalists?
I've always loved journalists. I don't know where the story's come from, that I have a problem with journalists. I have a problem with intrusion — that's something different completely. But some of my heroes are journalists.

The opening credits made me think what a David Fincher Bond film might look like.
I could see him applying it to anything, really. I'd love to work with him again, and I'd do anything for him. David has a very happy set most of the time — as much as a set can ever be happy when you're filming very dramatic scenes.

There was some financial trouble with the Bond franchise over the last couple of years, but that made it possible for you to do this film.
That's true, it did, yes. I always knew it was going to work itself out. But I'd also kind of said to myself, if it doesn't work out somebody else is going to do it. That's the way it is. Bond will be fine, he'll keep going.

Tattoo has Oscar buzz, but do you worry that the roughness might scare off some voters?
Oh look, I can't think about all that. It's such a crazy period. If it offends a few people, good. I hope it does.

ROONEY MARA

Lisbeth is an iconic character, with piercings and a punk look. How collaborative was David Fincher with you regarding the look?
There were a lot of discussions about the character — about the way she looks, about the way she walks, about the way she talks, about her eye contact, about her mannerisms. But at the end of the day, you know, obviously I'm the person playing the character so he did give me a lot of freedom in that. There was always a lot of talking and a lot of collaboration.

Why do you think it is that when a female character is presented as strong and is in any way sexualized, some people dismiss it as exploitative or misogynistic?
I don't know, because people are stupid? (laughs) I don't know, that's true. I don't know why.

Because I think it scares people. Things that people aren't used to seeing or experiencing scares them. The thing that's so interesting about this character is that she has these two different sides. She's perfectly capable of taking care of herself, but at the same time she's vulnerable and put in these horrible positions.

She's wise beyond her years and incredibly bright, but at the same time she's emotionally stunted at 12 years old and is naïve and doesn't have a lot of experience with other people.

So I think that's what makes her so interesting, that she has these opposing sides. She's been sexually abused, but at the same time she's very sexual.

May the magical wonder of the holiday season bring hope, peace and joy to you and your family.
Merry Christmas!
From the Elders, Staff and Board,
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THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., DEC. 16 TO THURS., DEC. 22. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. COMPLETE LISTINGS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT METRONEWS.CA/MOVIES.

Movie reviews See it twice | See it now
Worth watching | Yawn | Don't bother

Young Adult
Genre: Comedy
Director: Jason Reitman
Stars: Charlize Theron, Patton Oswalt, Patrick Wilson

Oscar-winner Charlize Theron takes the cartoon route in this downbeat story of an alcoholic author who proves you can't go home again. Especially when you're an emotional wreck intent on stealing your high school sweetheart from his wife and newborn. Diablo Cody's premise is interesting, but the filmmakers aim low. The film lacks subtlety and complexity and glorifies the bratty inner child, when the grown-up in question should be trying desperately to locate her inner adult. The humour is mild, juvenile and low-brow and veers into verboten territory as regional, sexist and somewhat homophobic. ANNE BRODIE

Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol
Genre: Action
Director: Brad Bird
Stars: Tom Cruise, Simon Pegg

In the fourth Mission Impossible thriller, Tom Cruise and his rogue team of spies must clear their name after it's framed for a terrorist plot against the Kremlin. It's a simple, underplayed plotline but an impressive vehicle for huge action sequences that include Cruise hanging off the Burj Khalifa in Dubai — even more stunning in IMAX. While the villain is bland and the supporting characters a bit thin, Ghost Protocol's intensity and pace returns Cruise to form as one of cinema's more thrilling spies. STEVE GOW

Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chip-Wrecked
Genre: Animation
Director: Mike Mitchell
Stars: Justin Long, Matthew Gray Gubler, Jesse McCartney

The plot for the third theatrical outing of Alvin and his rodent bretheren gets underway after the trio get separated from the Carnival cruise ship (ingenious product placemen, that) and end up on that evergreen cartoon trope, the deserted island. Kids movies generally succeed by having something in them for the dragged-along parents as well, but the only jokes to sail over kids' heads in Chip-Wrecked seem to make reference to Internet memes and popular YouTube videos, which just seems lazy more than anything. NED EHRBAR

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The Three Musketeers 3D (PG) Fri-Sat 2-4:55-7:40-10:25 Sun-Thu 1:50-4:30-7:10-9:45

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Footloose (PG) Fri 3:50-6:30-9 Sat-Sun 1:10-3:50-6:30-9 Mon-Thu 5-7:40
The Help (PG) Fri 4:20-8 Sat-Sun 1-4:20-8 Mon-Thu 4:40-7:50
In Time (PG) Fri 4:30-7-9:30 Sat-Sun 1:50-4:30-7-9:30 Mon-Thu 5:20-8:20
Johnny English Reborn (PG) Fri 4-6:50-9:10 Sat-Sun 1:30-4-6:50-9:10 Mon-Thu 5:10-7:30
Paranormal Activity 3 (14A) Fri 5:10-7:20-9:30 Sat-Sun 12:50-3-5:10-7:20-9:30 Mon-Thu 5:30-8
The Smurfs (G) Fri 6 Sat-Sun 1:20-6 Mon-Thu 4:50
The Three Musketeers (PG) Fri-Sun 4:10-9:20 Mon-Thu 7:20

City Cinema - Northgate 1399 McPhillips, 204-334-6234
50/50 (14A) Fri-Sun 3:40-8:20 Mon-Thu 7:10
Dolphin Tale (G) Fri 6:40 Sat-Sun 1:40-6:40 Mon-Thu 4:50
Drive (18A) Fri 4:40-7:10-9:40 Sat-Sun 2-4:40-7:10-9:40 Mon-Thu 5:30-8:10
Footloose (PG) Fri 3:50-6:30-9 Sat-Sun 1:10-3:50-6:30-9 Mon-Thu 5-7:40
The Help (PG) Fri 4:20-8 Sat-Sun 1-4:20-8 Mon-Thu 4:40-7:50
In Time (PG) Fri 4:30-7-9:30 Sat-Sun 1:50-4:30-7-9:30 Mon-Thu 5:20-8:20
Johnny English Reborn (PG) Fri 4-6:50-9:10 Sat-Sun 1:30-4-6:50-9:10 Mon-Thu 5:10-7:30
Paranormal Activity 3 (14A) Fri 5:10-7:20-9:30 Sat-Sun 12:50-3-5:10-7:20-9:30 Mon-Thu 5:30-8
The Smurfs (G) Fri 6 Sat-Sun 1:20-6 Mon-Thu 4:50
The Three Musketeers (PG) Fri-Sun 4:10-9:20 Mon-Thu 7:20

Famous Players Kildonan Place 1555 Regent Ave W, 204-663-2166
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (G) No Passes Fri 3:40-7-9:20 No Passes Sat-Sun 1:10-3:40-7-9:20 No Passes Mon-Thu 6-8:10
Arthur Christmas (G) Fri 4:10-6:30-9 Sat-Sun 1:40-4:10-6:30-9 Mon 5:30-7:50
The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (18A) No Passes Tue-Thu 7:30
Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol (14A) No Passes Tue 7 No Passes Wed-Thu 5:30-8:40
The Muppets (G) Fri 4-6:40-9:20 Sat-Sun 1:20-4-6:40-9:20 Mon 5:50-8:20
New Year's Eve (PG) Fri 4-7:20-10 Sat-Sun 1-4-7:20-10 Mon 5:40-8:30 Tue-Thu 5:50-8:50
Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (STC) No Passes Fri 3:50-6:50-10 No Passes Sat-Sun 12:50-3:50-6:50-10 No Passes Mon-Thu 5:20-8:30
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (PG) Fri 4:10-7:10-9:50 Sat-Sun 1:30-4:10-7:10-9:50 Mon 5:30-8:20 Tue-Thu 5:40-8:20

Grant Park 8 Cinemas 1120 Grant Ave., 204-453-4084
The Adventures of Tintin (PG) Wed-Thu 3:40-6:45-9:20
The Descendants (14A) Fri 3:45-7-9:50 Sat-Sun 12:50-3:45-7-9:50 Mon-Thu 3:45-7-9:50
The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (18A) No Passes, Tue 7:15 No Passes, Wed-Thu 3:15-6:25-9:35
Hugo 3D (PG) Fri 3:35-6:20-9:15 Sat-Sun 12:40-3:35-6:20-9:15 Mon-Thu 3:35-6:20-9:15
Margin Call (14A) Fri 3:15-6:25-9:35 Sat-Sun 12:35-3:15-6:25-9:35 Mon 3:15-6:25-9:35 Tue 3:15
Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol (14A) No Passes, Tue 6:55-9:55 No Passes, Wed-Thu 3:30-6:55-9:55
The Muppets (G) Fri 3:30-6:55-9:55 Sat-Sun 1:05-3:30-6:55-9:55 Mon 3:30-6:55-9:55 Tue 3:30
New Year's Eve (PG) No Passes, Fri 3:25-6:15-9:30 No Passes, Sat-Sun 12:30-3:25-6:15-9:30 Mon-Thu 3:25-6:15-9:30
Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (STC) No Passes, Fri 3:50-6:40-9:45 No Passes, Sat-Sun 1-3:50-6:40-9:45 No Passes, Mon-Thu 3:50-6:40-9:45
The Sitter (14A) Fri 3:55-6:35-10 Sat-Sun 1:10-3:55-6:35-10 Mon-Thu 3:55-6:35-10
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (PG) Fri 3:40-6:45-9:20 Sat-Sun 12:55-3:40-6:45-9:20 Mon-Tue 3:40-6:45-9:20

IMAX Theatre at Portage Place Y003-393 Portage Avenue, 204-956-4629
Born to Be Wild 3D (G) Sat-Sun 12 Wed 10-12:30
Dolphins and Whales 3D: Tribes of the Ocean (G) Fri 11
Grand Canyon Adventure: River at Risk (STC) Fri 10 Thu 9:30
Hubble 3D (G) Mon 11:15 Wed 11:15
The Human Body (STC) Mon 1:15 Tue 11 Thu 1
Jane Goodall's Wild Chimpanzees (STC) Tue 1
Real Steel: The IMAX Experience (PG) Fri 7-9:30 Sat 2:30-7:15 Sun 2:30
Space Station (STC) Mon 12:15 Tue 12
Tornado Alley 3D (G) Sat 1:15-6 Sun 1:15 Mon 10 Wed 1:45
The Ultimate Wave Tahiti 3D (STC) Tue 10

Landmark Globe Cinema 393 Portage Ave, 204-943-1583
The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (18A) Tue-Thu 6:45-9:50
Take Shelter (14A) Fri 7:20-9:45 Sat-Sun 1:20-3:45-7:20-9:45 Mon-Thu 7:20-9:45
The Way (PG) Fri 7:10-9:40 Sat-Sun 1:10-3:40-7:10-9:40 Mon 7:10-9:40
Young Adult (14A) Fri 7-9:30 Sat-Sun 1-3:30-7-9:30 Mon 7-9:30 Tue-Thu 7:10-9:30

Landmark Towne Cinema 8301 Notre Dame Avenue, 204-947-2848
The Adventures of Tintin (PG) Wed-Thu 7-9:20
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (G) Fri 7-9:15 Sat-Sun 1-3:30-7-9:15 Mon-Thu 7-9:15
Jack and Jill (PG) Fri 7:15-9:30 Sat-Sun 1:30-3:30-7:15-9:30 Mon-Tue 7:15-9:30
Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol (14A) Tue-Thu 6:30-9:30
The Muppets (G) Fri 7-9:20 Sat-Sun 1:15-3:45-7-9:20 Mon-Tue 7-9:20
New Year's Eve (PG) Fri 6:45-9:15 Sat-Sun 1-3:45-6:45-9:15 Mon-Thu 6:45-9:15
Puss in Boots (G) Fri 7:15-9:15 Sat-Sun 1:30-3:30-7:15-9:15 Mon 7:15-9:15 Wed-Thu 7:15-9:15
Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (STC) Fri 6:45-9:30 Sat-Sun 1-4-6:45-9:30 Mon-Thu 6:45-9:30
The Sitter (14A) Fri 7:15-9:20 Sat-Sun 1:30-4-7:15-9:20 Mon-Thu 7:15-9:20
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (PG) Fri 6:45-9:30 Sat-Sun 1:15-4-6:45-9:30 Mon-Thu 6:45-9:30

SilverCity Polo Park 815 St. James Street, 204-774-1001
The Adventures of Tintin 3D (PG) No Passes Wed-Thu 12:2:40-5:20-8:10:40
The Adventures of Tintin: An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) No Passes Wed-Thu 11:30-5
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (G) No Passes Fri-Thu 11:55-2:15-4:35 No Passes Fri-Tue 10:55-1:15-3:35-5:55-8:15-10:35 No Passes Wed-Thu 1:15-3:35-5:55-8:20-10:35
Arthur Christmas (G) Fri-Sat 12:45-3:05-5:30-7:55-10:20 Sun 3:05-5:30-7:55-10:20 Mon 12:45-3:05-5:30-7:55-10:20 Tue 11:05-1:30-4
The Descendants (14A) Fri-Tue 10:05
The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (18A) No Passes Tue 7-7:30-10:30-11 No Passes Wed-Thu 11:45-12:30-3:15-4-6:45-7:30-10:15-10:55
Happy Feet Two (G) Fri-Tue 11:45-2:20-4:55-7:30 Wed 12-2:30-5:10 Thu 1:35-4
Hugo 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 11:05-1:50-4:35-7:25-10:10 Mon 11:05-1:50-4:35-10:10 Tue 11:05-1:45-4:30
Immortals (18A) Fri-Tue 12:25-3-5:40-8:20-11 Wed 7:55-10:35 Thu 9:40
The Metropolitan Opera: Don Giovanni - Encore (STC) Sat 11:55
Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol (14A) No Passes Tue 7:30-10:30 No Passes Wed-Thu 1:30-4:45-7:55-11
Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol: The IMAX Experience (14A) No Passes Fri-Tue 11-2-5-8-11 No Passes Wed-Thu 2-7:30-10:30
The Muppets (G) Fri-Tue 11:30-2:10-4:50-7:35-10:15 Wed-Thu 11:20-2:4:40-7:25-10:10
New Year's Eve (PG) Fri 11:20-2:10-5-7:50-10:40 Sat 2:10-5-7:50-10:40 Sun-Thu 11:20-2:10-5-7:50-10:40
The Nutcracker - Bolshoi Ballet Encore (STC) Sun 1 Mon 6:30
Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (STC) No Passes Fri-Tue 10:50-1:45-4:40-6:55-7:45-10-10:45 No Passes Wed 4:40-6:55-7:45-10-10:45 No Passes Thu 1:45-4:40-6:55-7:45-10-10:45 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Wed 1
The Sitter (14A) Fri-Thu 11:25-1:30-3:45-6-8:15-10:30
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (PG) Fri-Tue 11:15-2-4:50-7:40-10:25 Wed-Thu 11:25-2:05-4:50-7:40-10:25
A Very Harold & Kumar Christmas (18A) Fri 11:10-1:30-3:50-6:10-8:35-10:55 Sat 5:50-8:35-10:55 Sun 11:10-1:30-3:50-6:10-10:55 Mon 11:10-1:30-3:50-10:55 Tue 11:05-1:30-3:50
WWE TLC: Tables, Ladders & Chairs - 2011 (STC) Sun 7
Young Adult (14A) Fri-Sat 1:15-3:40-6-8:25-10:50 Sun 12:40-4:10-8:25-10:50 Mon 1:15-3:40-7:45-10:50 Tue 1:15-3:40-6-8:25-10:50 Wed 3:30-5:55-8:20-10:45 Thu 1:05-3:30-5:55-8:20-10:45 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1

SilverCity St. Vital 110-1225 St Mary's Rd, 204-256-3901
The Adventures of Tintin 3D (PG) No Passes Wed-Thu 4-7:10-10
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (G) No Passes Fri-Mon 12:30-1:30-2:50-4:10-5:10-7:30-9:50 No Passes Tue-Thu 4:10-5:10-7:30-9:50 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Thu 1
Arthur Christmas (G) Fri-Mon 1:10-3:50-6:30-9:10 Tue-Thu 3:50-6:30-9:10
The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (18A) No Passes Tue 7:10:30 No Passes Wed-Thu 3:30-7:10:30
Hugo 3D (PG) Fri-Mon 12:40-4-7:10-10 Tue 4
Immortals (18A) Fri-Sun 6:40-9:20 Mon 9:20 Tue 6:40-9:20
Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol (14A) No Passes Tue 7:20-10:20 No Passes Wed-Thu 4:30-7:20-10:20
The Muppets (G) Fri-Mon 1:50-4:40-7:20-10:20 Tue 4:40
New Year's Eve (PG) Fri-Mon 1:40-4:30-7:40-10:30 Tue 4:30-7:40-10:30 Wed-Thu 4:20-7:40-10:30
The Nutcracker - Bolshoi Ballet Encore (STC) Sun 1 Mon 6:30
Puss in Boots (G) Fri-Sat 1:20-4:20 Sun 4:20 Mon 1:20-4:20 Tue 4:20
Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (STC) No Passes Fri-Mon 12:50-4-6:30-7-9:40-10:10 No Passes Tue-Thu 4-6:30-7-9:40-10:10 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Thu 1
The Sitter (14A) Fri-Mon 2-4:50-7:50-10:20 Tue-Thu 4:50-7:50-10:20
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (PG) Fri-Mon 1-3:50-6:50-9:50 Tue-Thu 3:50-6:50-9:50

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Golden Globe winners, losers

With nominations announced Thursday, The Artist earned the most at six Here's who looks good and who doesn't

NED EHRBAR
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS IN HOLLYWOOD

Awards season officially kicks off with the nominations for the 2012 Golden Globes, and as usual the Hollywood Foreign Press Association (HFPA) didn't disappoint by both focusing the Oscar race and throwing in a few head-scratchers. Here's the breakdown.

BIGGEST WINNERS

Woody Allen should be smiling. Long a favourite of the HFPA, the director's latest film, Midnight in Paris, gets an impressive awards-season boost thanks to its four Globe nods, including both screenplay and directing for Allen.

And between his acting in The Descendants and directing in The Ides of March, George Clooney will have plenty of reasons to show up.

Ryan Gosling is certainly enjoying his nominations in both Best Actor categories.

As far as sheer numbers, silent film The Artist — an Oscar front-runner since making a splash at Cannes — had the most nominations at six, but The Help and The Descendants are close behind at five.

Usual awards heavyweights the Weinstein Company and HBO lead the film and TV packs with 12 and 18 nominations, respectively.

British series Downton Abbey, which airs in the U.S. as part of Masterpiece Theater, received the most TV nominations, with four.

▶ Ryan Gosling was nominated for two Best Actor awards.

BIGGEST SNUBS

The most glaring omission to awards watchers is Stephen Spielberg. Even though his two films, War Horse and The Adventures of Tintin, are nominated, he was edged out of the directing category.

David Fincher might be feeling overlooked as well, as his The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo only pulled in nominations for Trent Reznor's score and Rooney Mara's performance.

Also, not a single nomination for British spy thriller Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy.

And on the TV side, fans were hoping critical darling Community could pick up some Comedy nominations to help its fight against impending cancellation, but the series was completely overlooked.

BIGGEST SURPRISES

Many had believed Disney would run The Help on the Musical or Comedy side for the Globes, giving the popular hit an easier chance at picking up some trophies, but its inclusion in Drama means presumed Oscar front-runners Viola Davis and Meryl Streep (for The Iron Lady) are going head-to-head earlier than expected.

In TV, the biggest shock has to be the HFPA's apparent love of Ryan Murphy. While a Best Series — Musical or Comedy nod for Glee isn't surprising, the organization apparently flipped for his new less-than-acclaimed horror series, American Horror Story, giving it mentions for Best Series, Drama and Best Supporting Actress for Jessica Lange.

BIGGEST REASON TO WATCH

Aside from the showdown between Streep and Davis, the other big reason to watch is to see what Ricky Gervais does to make the HFPA regret inviting him back as host.

The organization is notorious for its love of celebrities, so, not so surprising are nominations for Clooney, Leonardo DiCaprio, Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie — her In the Land of Blood and Honey is up for Best Foreign Language Film.

If Johnny Depp shows up to support Best Animated Feature nominee Rango, they'll have done their job.

Mark your calendar

The Golden Globe Awards will be handed out live on Jan. 15 in Los Angeles.

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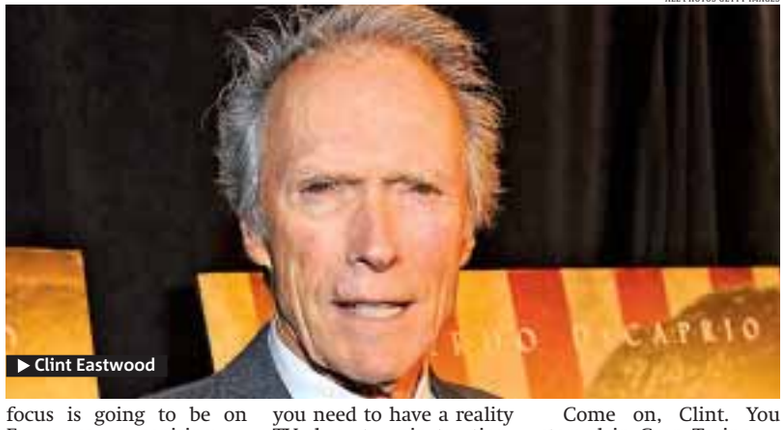
Eastwood doing reality TV? Please say it ain't so

Actor's family set to star in show produced by makers of Kardashian series

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES


▶ Clint Eastwood

THE WORD

DOROTHY ROBINSON
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

The news that Clint Eastwood and his family are making a reality TV show is making me feel all Dirty Harry on the inside.

Yes, TMZ.com is reporting that Eastwood's wife and two daughters are shooting a new reality show that will explore what it's like to be "Hollywood royalty" for the E! Network (editor's note: All reality TV shows are about this. Change it up, people).

Per TMZ, it will focus on the relationship between Clint's wife Dina Eastwood, their daughter Morgan and Clint's 18-year-old daughter Francesca. It is being produced by the same company that is also responsible for the Kardashian shows.

Honestly, folks, let's just give up.

Because if Clint, 81, succumbs to the siren call of reality TV, there is no hope for the rest of it.

It's because he and his family are "Hollywood royalty" that they don't have to sink to this, even if the focus is going to be on Francesca, an aspiring actress (second note: If your dad is Clint Eastwood and you need to have a reality TV show to gain traction, you must be a terrible actress).

Come on, Clint. You starred in Gran Torino — please don't go down without a fight.

Miley says her twins are real

▶ Miley Cyrus

After turning heads in a low-cut dress at CNN's recent Heroes gala, Miley Cyrus is fighting back against speculation that she's had breast augmentation surgery.

"Thank you for the compliment but these babies are all mine," she posted to Twitter in response to the claims.

"I wish they'd realize you don't have to be fake to be beautiful."

METRO

Celebrity tweets

@SteveMartinToGo
Trivia: In the Jerk, after we sing "Tonight, You Belong to Me," when I stand up you can hear a crack as I step on the ukulele.

@BettyBuckley

My absolutely "nothing" day! Ahhhh. But maybe I'll start the Michael Connelly book. I am so excited about all the new movies comin' out!

@SethMacFarlane

I wonder what President the corporations are gonna buy us next year!

Suri Cruise rakes it in for Christmas

Suri Cruise doesn't skimp when it comes to asking for things from Santa.

Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes' daughter reportedly has a Christmas list of items that total $130,000, according to In Touch Weekly.

Topping the 5-year-old's list are a pony, diamond earrings and gowns that will make her look "like a fairy princess," according to the magazine.

And Cruise has reportedly already found a stable in Beverly Hills for the pony.

"Tom and Katie love the holidays and always go overboard," a source says.

"Suri is very mature and knows what she wants."

METRO

▶ Suri Cruise

Put wine love into words

PETER ROCKWELL
LIQUIDASSETS@EASTLINK.CA
TWITTER: @THEREALWINEGUY

When I was a young wine expert in training, there was no Internet. If you wanted to learn anything about anything, you had to look it up in a book.

Back in the day there wasn't a wine scribe more famous than Hugh Johnson — a gregarious Brit with a casual way of delivery on vino that paved the way for today's first person blogger culture.

Johnson is still writing up a storm with his Pocket Wine Book 2012 (Mitchell Beazley, $16.99), the undisputed bible for any wine lover on the go. Ever the literary entrepreneur, this year he's created a Wine Journal (Mitchell Beazley, $17.99) that will allow vinophiles to write their own reviews and keep track of what they're putting in their mouths.

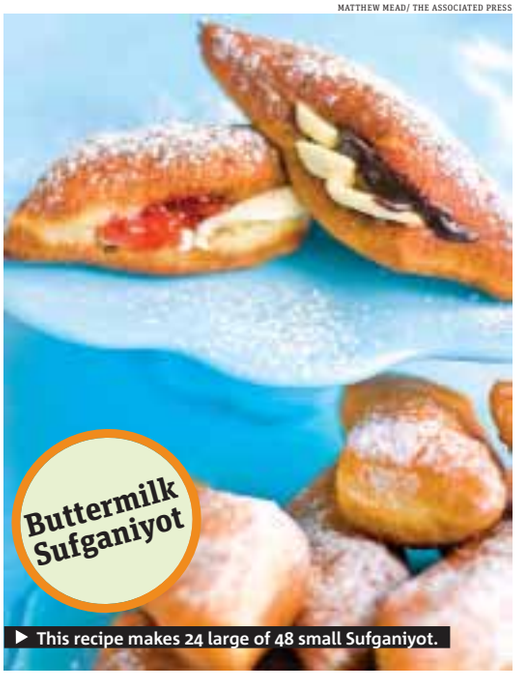
The journal would make a great Christmas gift, especially when paired with a wine worth writing about. France's Père Anselme La Fiole du Pape Châteauneuf-du-Pape ($35.49 - $39.50) is a non-vintage blend of up to 13 grapes with a rustic, dark fruited personality perfect for holiday drinking.

PRICES REFLECT THE RANGE ACROSS CANADA. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.

Get sweet on Hanukkah

Bake up some delicious treats inspired by the upcoming Jewish holiday

MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



This recipe makes 24 large of 48 small Sufganiyot.

Ingredients:

- 1 l plus 50 ml (4 1/4 cups) bread flour, plus more for dusting work surface
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) baking soda
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) salt
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) milk
- 300 ml (1 1/4 cups) buttermilk
- 20 ml (4 tsp) dry active yeast
- 45 ml (3 tbsp) sugar
- Vegetable oil, for frying
- Powdered sugar, for dusting

Preparation:

1. In medium bowl, whisk flour, baking soda and salt. Set aside. In small saucepan over medium, heat milk until steaming. Remove pan from heat and add buttermilk. Pour mix into bowl of stand mixer fitted with dough hook. Whisk in yeast and sugar. Let stand 5 mins.
2. Coat large bowl with vegetable oil; set aside.
3. Add flour mix to milk mix and mix on low until dry ingredients are moistened and form ball, about 3 mins. Increase speed to medium and continue mixing 2 mins. Dough will be quite sticky. Transfer dough to prepared bowl, cover with plastic wrap and set aside in a draft-free spot. Let rise until doubled in size, about 1 hour.
4. Fill deep sauté pan with 7.5 cm (3 inches) of oil. Heat over medium to 190 C (375 F). Line large plate with paper towels.
5. Lightly flour clean work surface. Turn dough out onto surface. Dust top of dough with flour, press to flatten. Fold dough in half and tuck ends under to create a ball. Dust with flour again and use rolling pin to roll dough into roughly a 28-by-43-cm (11-by-17-inch) rectangle about 5 mm (1/4 inch) thick.
6. Using sharp knife, cut dough lengthwise into 4 equal strips, then cut horizontally, at angle, to create 24 or 48 diamond-shaped pieces.
7. Working in batches, carefully drop pieces of dough into hot oil, being careful not to crowd pan. Fry, turning often with slotted spoon, until puffed and golden, 2 mins. Transfer to plate to drain while frying remaining Sufganiyot. Fill or top as desired. Serve warm, dusted with powdered sugar.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fillings

To fill the Sufganiyot, use either a syringe-like pastry filling tool or slice open one side with a paring knife and use a spoon.

- A few slices of fresh banana and a generous spoonful of hot fudge.
- Ricotta cheese mixed with chopped walnuts, golden raisins and a drizzle of honey.
- Cream cheese topped with some chunky strawberry jam.
- A chocolate-nut spread (such as Nutella), topped with chopped peanuts and marshmallow spread.

3 life

Scan this code for a Hanukkah recipe for coffee and porter braised brisket.

A Winnipeg company is currently looking for an employee with exceptional knowledge of Cantonese and Szechuan style cuisine (including traditional Hong Kong dim sum and Hong Kong style bakery and pastry), is able to and willing to train and to provide recipes and share your skills and knowledge and cooking techniques to the master chefs and sous chefs of the company. You have the following experience: (i) over 5 years experiences of training chefs; (ii) over 5 years experiences of a master chef; and (iii) experiences with opening new restaurants. We offer a competitive salary and comprehensive benefits package. Please send your resume to the following: Eric at: epl663@hotmail.ca

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HOLIDAY 2011
gift guide

Top tech toys

MIKE YAWNEY
FOR METRO

Still looking for that special something for that gadget lover in your life? There are so many gadgets and so little time before Christmas! Let us help you weed out the good from the bad with this list of must-have tech toys sure to please that nerd in your life.

Motorola Razr — $649 (no contract); $149 (three-year contract)

Now here's a blast from the past! Motorola has revived the Razr! The handset debuted back in 2004, now, seven years later, the brand finds new life. This ultra-thin, water- and scratch-resistant smartphone is blazing fast thanks to its 1.2GHz dual-core processor. The updated handset features a 4.3-inch Super AMOLED screen, 8-megapixel camera capable of shooting 1080p HD video, as well as a front camera. One of the standout features has to be MotoCast, which lets you stream your documents and media files from your home or work computer. Easily one of the best Android phones of 2011.

Kobo Vox — $199

Kobo is best known for its eReaders, but the company has now expanded into the tablet market. The affordable Kobo Vox is a colour eReader, which doubles as an entry-level Android tablet. Read books, surf the web, send email or download one of more than 15,000 apps. The Kobo Vox is not as fast as some of the top-selling tablets on the market, but makes a great gift for someone who wants an easy-to-use device.

Clockwise, from top: Motorola Razr, $649 (no contract), $149 (three-year contract); Nike+ SportsWatch GPS, $199; Kobo Vox, $199; and Crayola ColorStudio HD, $29.99.

TDK Boombox — $399

The '80s are making a comeback! TDK, the company best known for blank cassette tapes, is bringing the boombox back. This high-end audio system is made from quality materials including glass and aluminum. Two powerful six-inch coaxial drivers deliver clear vocals and crisp highs while a six-inch subwoofer provides superior bass. Supports most audio devices, even instruments! Carry this beauty on your shoulder this Christmas and make a statement.

ION iCade — $99.99

Turn your iPad into an authentic arcade cabinet. Made from wood, this cabinet features buttons and a joystick to ensure you get the nostalgic feeling of stepping into an arcade. No quarters needed! The iCade is compatible with more than 100 classic Atari games such as Asteroids, Centipede, and Battlezone (each sold separately)

Viper SmartStart — starting at $349 (price depends on vehicle)

Tired of getting into a cold vehicle? Why not use your smartphone to start your vehicle so it's toasty warm when you climb in. Viper's SmartStart system works off your cell signal so you can start your vehicle from practically anywhere you get reception. No need for a remote on your key ring! Works with most smartphones.

ION iCade, $99.99, left, Viper SmartStart, starting at $349 (price depends on vehicle), below.

Nike+ SportsWatch GPS — $199

Need encouragement to get in shape? This watch may just be what you are looking for! Nike has teamed up with TomTom to design the perfect GPS watch to track time, pace, distance, calories burned, and heart rate while running. You can even go online and take a look at your running history and interact with runners around the globe. Wear it while running or use it as an everyday watch.

Darth Vader Toaster — $49.99

Enjoy your toast on the dark side? This dual-slotted toaster is for you. This officially licensed toaster will help you leave the mark of Vader's helmet on every piece of bread in your home on Christmas morning. Optional temperature settings ensure each slice is toasted to perfection.

Parrot AR.Drone Quadricopter — $329

Boys love their toys and here's one that will keep them entertained for hours. Parrot's AR.Drone is like a helicopter, only with four sets of spinning blades. The Drone is controlled through your iPhone and iPad. What really sets this gadget apart from other flying toys are the two cameras mounted on the device to give you a bird's-eye view from the air on your phone. Make sure you buy an extra battery since one charge will only give you about 10 minutes of flight!

Crayola ColorStudio HD — $29.99

Turn your iPad into a colouring book. Download the special app, select your colour, tip shape and then draw on your iPad with the digital iMarker. It feels just like a real Crayola marker! Download new pages, background music and sound effects. It's like having a never-ending colouring book!

Darth Vader Toaster, $49.99, top, TDK Boombox, $399, left,

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LET YOUR FINGERS DO THE SHOPPING

ONLINE SHOPPING

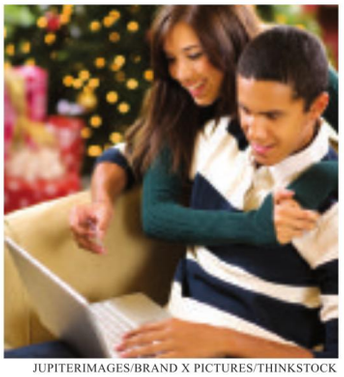
You have to admit it, there's something pretty appealing about being able to do your Christmas shopping from the comfort of your own home. No need to circle around mall parking lots looking for elusive parking spaces, no need to wrestle with awkward packages and, of course, no need to even change out of your pyjamas.

From research and comparison shopping to purchase and delivery, many people are discovering that online is the way to shop. The Internet offers almost endless ideas for finding the perfect gift for everyone on your shopping list. If you are thinking about doing some of your Christmas online this year, here are some pointers to help make the experience an efficient and enjoyable one.

OBTAIN A CREDIT CARD FOR ONLINE PURCHASES Scotiabank has a suite of Momentum Visa Cards that offer cash-back rewards from 1 per cent to 4 per cent. To help decide which card is right for you, try the Momentum Cash Back Calculator at scotiabank.com/momentumcashback.

BE THE FIRST TO KNOW about shipping specials and other discounts by signing up for e-mail discounts from your favourite shops.

BOOKMARK SITES designed for Canadian shoppers. Canada Post Comparison Shopper (canadapost.ca/shopper), for example, analyzes products and deals from hundreds of stores in Canada and the U.S. Another site, Canada Shopping Links (canadashoppinglinks.com) guides you to Canada's Internet retailers.



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DETAILS When you're considering a purchase, pay attention to any terms and conditions, warranties, shipping facts and other important details.

REVIEW THE VENDOR'S RETURN POLICY Even the savviest of shoppers can end up with clothing that doesn't fit, is the wrong colour or wasn't quite what he or she expected.

With Dec. 25 fast approaching, make sure you also factor in delivery time. Some sites offer express shipping, but it's best to get your shopping done sooner than later to ensure that your special gift makes it under the tree in time for Christmas!

STOCKBYTE/THINKSTOCK

FIVE TIPS FOR WRAPPING UP CHRISTMAS

Say so long to Christmas-Eve chaos this year by wrapping holiday gifts well before Christmas. Here are a few tips to make the job easy and enjoyable.

SET UP A DESIGNATED WRAPPING AREA and ensure you have all the gift-wrapping essentials before you start. These include scissors, tape, gift tags, paper and ribbon. ***Tip:*** Double-sided tape stays put and out of sight.

USE CLEAR OR PRINTED CELLOPHANE BAGS to wrap beauty products, candies, or baked goods. Seal the bag with ribbon or raffia and add some seasonal stickers to finish the job.

PICK UP PAPER GIFT BAGS AT YOUR LOCAL DOLLAR STORE Bags are affordable and available in a variety of sizes and patterns.

PURCHASE A GLUE GUN AT THE CRAFT STORE Glue guns are fun and easy to use and can transform an ordinary gift into a masterpiece.

CUSTOMIZE YOUR GIFT with seasonal greenery, pine cones, or artificial flower sprigs.

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TOP 10 SONGS OF THE SEASON

When it comes to choosing the top 10 Christmas songs of all time, where do you start? Over the years, the airwaves have treated us to a variety of classics sung by everyone from Bing Crosby and Nat "King" Cole to Band Aid and Mariah Carey.

ACCORDING TO THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF COMPOSERS, AUTHORS AND PUBLISHERS (ASCAP), THE TOP 10 ARE:

1. The Christmas Song (Nat "King" Cole)
2. Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas (The Pretenders)
3. Winter Wonderland (Eurythmics)
4. Santa Claus Is Coming To Town (Bruce Springsteen)
5. White Christmas (Bing Crosby)
6. Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow! (Andy Williams)
7. Jingle Bell Rock (Bobby Helms)
8. Little Drummer Boy (The Harry Simeone Chorale & Orchestra)
9. Sleigh Ride (The Ronettes)
10. Rudolph The Red Nosed Reindeer (Gene Autry)

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Don't be talk of your office party

CHARLES THE BUTLER

ASKCHARLES THEBUTLER@METRONEWS.CA
FOR MORE, VISIT CHARLES MACPHERSON.COM

Oh, yes, the annual office holiday party! This can either be a disaster waiting to happen or an opportunity for business success.

First and foremost, despite the name, a holiday party is still a business function and getting drunk, acting silly or any other non-professional behaviour is out. Remember, these are your working peers and bosses, and being known as the office clown from the annual holiday party is never a good thing, particularly at promotion time the following year!

So keep the number of alcoholic drinks under control. I like the rule of two alcoholic drinks at a cocktail party and three alcoholic drinks for a sit-down dinner. Try to pace these out by having a non-alcoholic drink between each alcoholic beverage.

Keep your conversation pleasant. You can talk about a large number of items and, in fact, the best lesson to learn if you are nervous about what to talk about is to read Metro from cover to cover the morning of your party. Why you ask?

Because this gives you a bunch of topics to talk about that are all current and relevant. What not to talk about always remains the same in a professional environment. Never talk about politics or religion.

Dress festively and appropriately for the function as per the invitation, but err on the conservative side rather than flashy.

It is important to make a point and mingle, greet and acknowledge all of the senior members of your company at the party.

Finally, last but never least, have a good time and enjoy yourself.

STOCKBYTE/THINKSTOCK

❄ **Getting drunk, acting silly or any other non-professional behaviour should be avoided at your office holiday party. Being known as the office clown is never a good thing, particularly at promotion time next year.**

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❄ When trying to find a gift for service providers in your life, Charles the Butler advises to make a list of everyone you wish to give a present.

How to give gifts to service providers

CHARLES THE BUTLER

ASKCHARLES THEBUTLER@METRONEWS.CA
FOR MORE, VISIT CHARLES MACPHERSON.COM

The holiday season is supposed to be one of family fun and relaxation; however, sometimes the obligations of the season create unneeded stress.

So how do we deal with the stress of gift giving to service providers?

Firstly, the types of service providers you may wish to thank are the dog walker, newspaper delivery person and mail carrier, just to name a few.

There are two methods for dealing with this.

My favourite is to pick a theme. For example, everyone who works outside gets the same thing, such as a gift card from Tim Hortons or a new scarf and glove set.

This is always a welcome treat since they can warm up the winter with a hot drink or with their new scarf and gloves.

But what to do if you have people at different levels of what is appropriate to give? For example, what do you give a dog walker versus your math tutor?

1 First, I like to write a list of everyone I wish to give a present.

2 Try to come up with two or three categories, such as small, medium and big, and assign a dollar value to each category.

3 Next, place everyone from your list into one of the three categories. Now you have your list and everyone is easily classified.

So what's next? Pick the presents for each category — small presents are $5 bars of special soap, the medium category is $20 bottles of wine and, finally, the big category for only a few people may be chipping in with your brothers and sisters to buy your parents a new TV.

These are the techniques that we as butlers use to help keep the household organized so we can deal with all of the gift giving that may be required.

And it's an easy formula, whether you have to give five, 10 or more presents this holiday season.

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Hey handsome

Great grooming gifts for the man in your life

JANINE FALCON
FOR METRO

Kerastase Homme Capital Force Daily Treatment Shampoo Anti-Oiliness Effect cleanses oil-prone hair without stripping it dry, and leaves scalp feeling comfortable, too. $35, kerastase.com for salons.

L'Occitane Verdon Fresh Water Shower Body & Hair two-in-one wash saves time as it wakes him up with its waterfall-fresh scent. $18, loccitane.com.

New **Gillette Fusion ProGlide Irritation 5 Defense Shave Gel** foams up to a rich beard-softening lather, and is souped up with glide-enhancing lubricants for a gentle, yet close shave. $7.49 at drugstores and mass retailers.

Biotherm Homme Aquapower D-Sensitive Soothing & Fortifying After Shave Moisturizer is fragrance- and alcohol-free, and enriched with Biotherm's signature Pure Thermal Plankton Extract plus calcium. $30, biothermhomme.ca.

Kiehl's Facial Fuel Transformer Age Correcting Moisture Gel for Men nudges the clock back on fine lines, uneven skin tone and pesky large pores with a light, quick-absorb formula. $35, kiehls.ca.

All-natural Consonant Body Antioxidant Superhero Serum doses skin with vitamins, minerals, and mattifying marine clay. **Ultra Moisturizing Organic Face Cream moisturizes** intensely without an oily finish. $63 and $54 respectively, consonantbody.com.

Gillette Fusion ProGlide Irritation 5 Defense Shave Gel, left, The Body Shop Hemp Hand Protector and Hemp Body Butter, below, and All-Natural Consonant Ultra Moisturizing Organic Face Cream for Dry Skin and Body Antioxidant Superhero Serum.

Talc-free Jack Black Performance Remedy Dry Down Friction-Free Powder is a cornstarch, cucumber and green tea mix that absorbs moisture and reduces chafing to make workouts more comfortable. $24, Sephora.

With notes of spearmint, peppermint, citrus and vetiver, **Giorgio Armani Code Sport** is a crisp, energetic scent with a distinctive underlying sensuality. $75, drug and department stores.

Men are funny about hand and body creams (that's not code), but **The Body Shop Hemp Hand Protector and Hemp Body Butter** consistently seems to meet with their approval. That's a win-win. $10 and $18, respectively, thebodyshop.ca.

Best man-bribe? A massage, especially with **Weleda Arnica Massage Oil**, which will help warm and relax sore, tired muscles. Plus it will put him in a receptive mood so you can tell him a massage is an excellent bribe for you, too. $24, well.ca, Rexall Pharma Plus, Whole Foods.

From left: Weleda Arnica Massage Oil; Talc-free Jack Black Performance Remedy Dry Down Friction-Free Powder; Biotherm Homme Aquapower D-Sensitive Soothing & Fortifying After Shave Moisturizer; Giorgio Armani Code Sport; Kerastase Homme Capital Force Daily Treatment Shampoo Anti-Oiliness Effect; L'Occitane Verdon Fresh Water Shower Body & Hair; Kiehl's Facial Fuel Transformer Age Correcting Moisture Gel for Men.

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Pretty woman

Ten top-to-toe gifts for her

JANINE FALCON
FOR METRO

The KeratinPerfect Perfect Treatment Smoothing Duo safely tames stubborn, wayward hair into a smooth, swingy, glossy finish at home. $65, Sephora.

Mineral-rich **Boscia Luminizing Black Mask** purifies skin as it softens, brightens and energizes. Plus, it looks wicked cool on the face — cuz, yep, it's black. $41 at Sephora.

Outfitted in a sweet tweed case, the **Dior Deluxe Holiday Palette** features a smoky-eyes duo and nude lip shade, nude-eyes duo and red lip shade, plus lip balm, powder and mascara. $90, The Bay.

Did someone say stress? Not us, at least not after time spent with the eucalyptus and spearmint **Bath & Body Works Stress Relief Set**, which includes body wash and foam bath, body lotion, a candle and massage oil. $49.50, bathandbodyworks.com.

Die-hard DIY manicure fans can get in on the no-chip, soak-off gel mani action with the **Nailene Professional UV Gel System**. With practice, it delivers salon-comparable results. From $9.99 to $79.99, Shoppers Drug Mart.

With hands so much in the beauty spotlight, this **Crabtree & Evelyn Hand Therapy Kit** with **La Source Hand Recovery, Hand Therapy, Nail & Cuticle Cream** and a nail buffer, is a must-give. $35, crabtree-evelyn.com for stores.

Iconic fragrance L'Air du Temps has a heritage that dates back to 1948. This year's **Nina Ricci L'Air**, an airy, romantic floral, is the scent's youthful spin-off — the pair makes a lovely mother-daughter gift. From $80, The Bay.

This luxurious, perfumed **Guerlain Vol de Nuit Powder Spray** is irresistibly iridescent with shimmering pale pink and hints of silver and blue-green sparkle. $100, Guerlain counters.

A soothing, fragrant blend of natural calendula, grapeseed, arnica, sandalwood and neroli oils, **Tata Harper Revitalizing Body Oil** beautifully conditions skin without leaving it slick. $90, Gee Beauty, 416-486-0080.

The **Airplus Spa Value Set** is stocked with excellent foot care formulas plus a full-size pair of cosy, cloud-soft, aloe-infused socks — hugs for hardworking feet after a long day. $12.99, Shoppers Drug Mart, Zellers Pharmacy.

Clockwise from top: Bath & Body Works Stress Relief Set; Guerlain Vol de Nuit Powder Spray; Nailene Professional UV Gel System; Crabtree & Evelyn Hand Therapy Kit with La Source Hand Recovery, Hand Therapy, Nail & Cuticle Cream; Dior Deluxe Holiday Palette; Airplus Spa Value Set; Nina Ricci L'Air; Tata Harper Revitalizing Body Oil; Boscia Luminizing Black Mask.

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Wines that are fine with various dishes

PETER ROCKWELL
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Whether you are serving turkey, ham, lamb or beef this holiday season, odds are you will be washing it down with a glass or two of vino.

Finding wines that will appeal to a crowd and match with your spread can be challenging. These picks will make nice with the big bird and just about anything else you might consider serving.

Freixenet NV Cordon Rosado ($12.95-$15.99)

▶ This ripe, rounded, food-friendly rosé sparkler from Spain is my favourite big meal intro and proves that bubbly ain't just for New Year's Eve anymore.

Moselland 2010 ArsVitis Riesling ($9.95-$17.99)

▶ It's hard to beat the soft, massaging flavours of a German riesling when it meets a mouthful of a complex meal. This off-dry version works wonders with both turkey and ham.

Caymus 2009 Conundrum ($23.95-$29.99)

▶ This insanely innovative white California mix of more than five grapes drinks like holiday perfection whether before, during or after dinner.

Yalumba 2010 'Y Series' Viognier ($14.95-$17.99)

▶ This Aussie viognier serves up fresh, tropical flavours supported by a vibrant, white pepper spice that's ideal with any major meal.

Oyster Bay 2010 Chardonnay ($17.99-$19.99)

▶ It's hard to beat the depth of flavour chardonnay brings to the table and this New Zealander shows off the varietal's up-front fruit without going too crazy with the oak.

Louis Latour 2009 Pinot Noir ($18.95-$25.49)

▶ Roast poultry's red wine BFF is pinot noir. The grape's home region is France's Burgundy and this balanced, berry-forward Frenchman is a classic companion for red and white meats.

Bodegas Montecillo 2008 Crianza ($14.95-$19.99)

▶ Red Rioja from Spain may sound like an unconventional turkey partner, but this wine's lightly wooded, cherry, cedar expression is the bomb.

Frescobaldi 2007 Nipozzano Chianti Riserva ($19.92-$27)

▶ With its full-bodied richness and long in the mouth fruit flavour this Tuscan red really talks turkey.

Père Anselme NV La Fiole du Pape Châteauneuf-du-Pape ($35.49-$39.50)

▶ More than just a cool crooked bottle; this tasty, well-balanced French red is a blend of up to 13 different grapes.

Croft Pink Port ($19.95-$19.99)

▶ Serving port chilled is a necessity, serving it ice cold is the wave of the future and this fruit-fest of a fortified wine from Portugal tastes great over ice as a post-dinner sipper.

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Measure up as a party host

Pouring drinks for guests can be somewhat intimidating.

People have different preferences, the glassware comes in all shapes and sizes and it can be tricky to get the amounts just right.

The host or hostess will also want to make sure that guests who imbibe over the holidays get home safely, or spend the night on a couch or in the guestroom if need be.

"Part of being a responsible host is definitely to measure your drinks for your guests, and not have an open bar," said Stephanie Petroff, a senior communications consultant for the Liquor Control Board of Ontario (LCBO).

"Measuring drinks is really important. Not only do drinks taste better, but you're also then making sure that you're pouring standard pours."

If guests request a weaker version of a mixed drink, that's OK, too, she indicated. "If they want to pour their own, have somebody there maybe offering a bit of advice."

JUPITERIMAGES/BRAND X PICTURES/THINKSTOCK

❄ **Experts say measuring drinks is important at parties. Not only do drinks taste better, but you are also making sure you are pouring standard pours.**

Troy Wanner, operations manager for the Fine Art Bartending School, said it's tough to get the amounts right just by eyeballing the glass.

"Definitely have a measuring device of some sort, whether it be a shot glass, a jigger, anything that you can kind of measure your pouring," he said from the school's head office in Kelowna, B.C.

Getting the right amount of ice in the glass of a mixed drink can make a huge difference, he added.

"People don't realize that. If you only put a little bit of ice in the glass, then you'll have a lot of mix, whereas if you have the glass full of ice, you're going to have way less mix."

Petroff noted that shapes and sizes of glassware are getting larger, which can contribute to the challenge of mastering the perfect pour.

LCBO launched a new ad recently to encourage people to speak up — address the elephant in the room — and prevent inebriated guests from getting behind the wheel. A new home bartending challenge on its website (deflatetheelephant.com) allows users to look at various glasses intended for different beverages, and try online to pour the correct amount.

"There's a whole variety of glassware so it's important to be aware that you're not, obviously, filling it to the top or overpouring because then it's hard to, in a sense, control what guests are drinking throughout the evening," Petroff said.

When trying the home bartending challenge, Petroff acknowledged that the wine category was the hardest for her because some wine glasses are almost bowl-like nowadays.

Wanner agreed that there is a tendency to want to overpour with the large goblets.

"If you want to use a bigger glass, you can prepour into a smaller dinner wine glass and then dump it into the goblet so you're not overpouring. To eyeball wine into a goblet is next to impossible."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

SKYY VODKA PHOTO

Choco Cherry Kiss

Ingredients:
- 1½ oz SKYY Vodka
- ½ oz Cherry Brandy
- ¾ oz cream
- ¾ oz Earl Grey simple syrup (see below)
- Grated cinnamon
- Grated dark chocolate

Preparation:

1 Combine SKYY Vodka, Cherry Brandy, cream, and simple syrup into cocktail shaker with ice. Shake vigorously until nice and frothy (around 10-15 seconds).

2 Strain into chilled cocktail glass and finish by grating cinnamon and dark chocolate onto the surface.

* Earl Grey simple syrup: 1 cup raw cane sugar, 1 cup water, 3 Earl Grey Tea Bags. Heat water and sugar in saucepan until sugar has completely dissolved. Remove from heat and allow tea bags to steep for at least 10 minutes, or until desired strength has been reached.

Cabo Wabo Loco Mocha

Ingredients:
- 1½ oz Cabo Wabo Blanco Tequila
- 4 oz hot chocolate
- ½ oz coffee liqueur
- whipped cream

Preparation:

1 Pour all ingredients into a coffee cup. Stir well. Finish with dollop of whipped cream.

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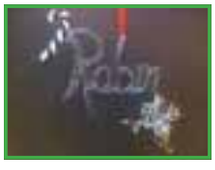

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Goody Gift Sets are available at leading food and drug mass retailers, all for less than $9.99.

Alex Toys All Ducted Out Duct Tape Craft Kit, $24.99, ages six and up, available at Mastermind Toys, mastermindtoys.com.

Leap Frog My Discovery House, $19.99, available at Leap Frog, shop.leapfrog.com/leapfrog.

Teacup Piggie, $19.99, available at most major retail outlets across the country, rptoys.ca.

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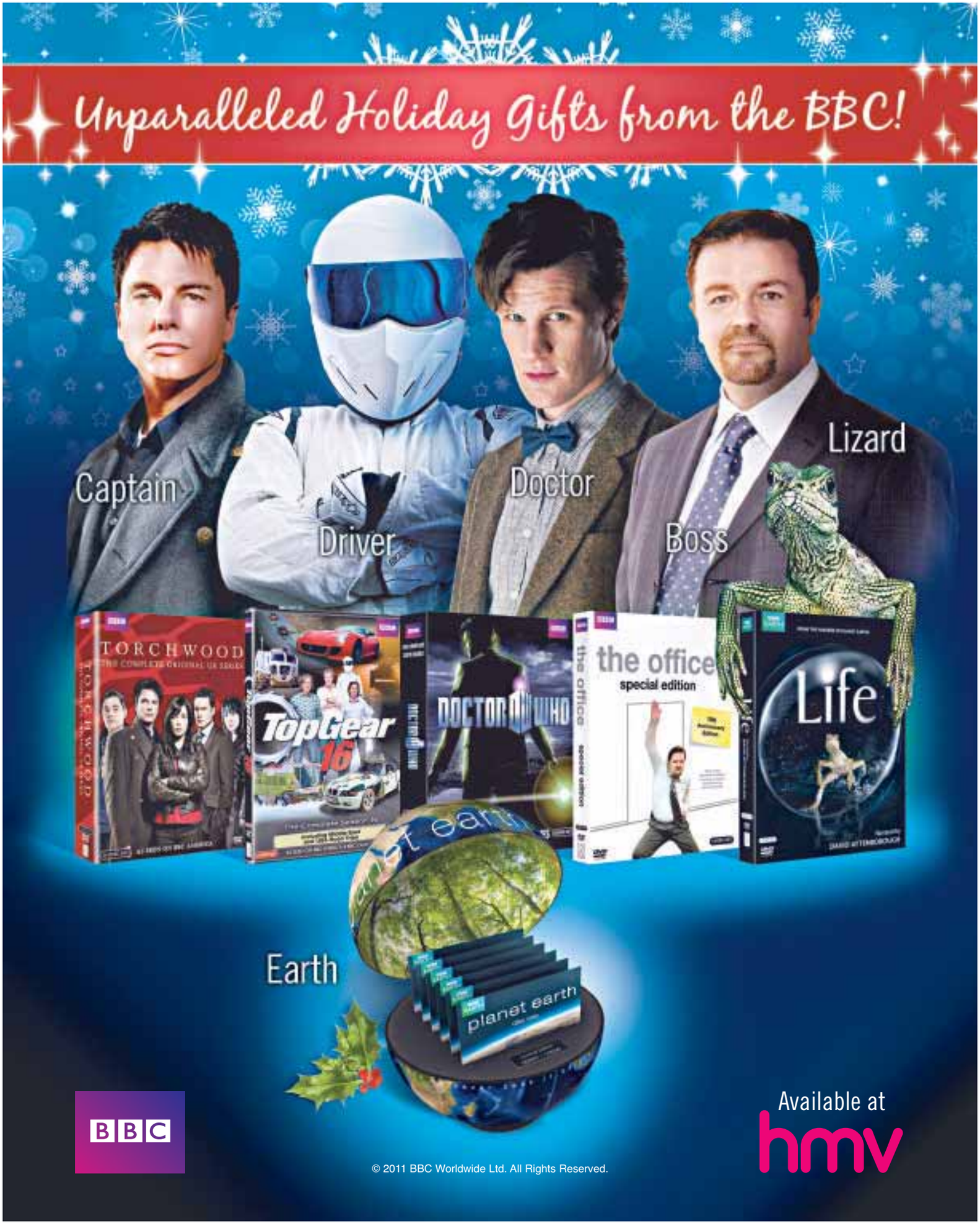
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Toy story for boys

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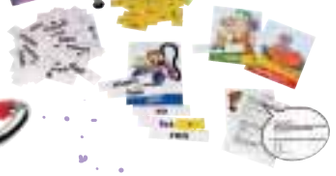
Gross-Abulary Game, $24.95, ages six and up, available at Mastermind Toys, mastermindtoys.com.



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A GROWING VOICE

ISTOCK/THINKSTOCK

MORE CANADIANS ARE CHOOSING TO HELP OTHERS OVER THE HOLIDAYS

During the Christmas holidays, there tends to be a focus on gift giving, but there is a growing movement towards charitable gift giving.

"I think it's a sort of growing voice," says Owen Charters, the executive director of canadahelps.org.

Canadahelps.org is a Canadian website that allows people to make online donations to any registered Canadian charity.

Charters says part of the reason for the charitable gift giving movement is that in an aging population, people are having a hard time finding items of need for themselves and others.

"How many more things do we really need?" is a question Charters says many baby boomers are asking themselves.

Charters says companies are also gravitating towards charitable gift giving. Rather than sending out cards and gifts, some are instead sending out holiday cards by email and making a donation to charity.

For Heather Avery, a resident of Truro, N.S., her practice of charitable gift giving during the Christmas holidays originated from her husband's family. Avery's husband grew up on a farm and the values of being appreciative of what you had and helping others in need were instilled in the children from an early age.

Charitable gift giving is an idea she has bought into completely.

"When I came on the scene, it was like, 'Oh, you don't give your mom and dad a gift for Christmas,'" recalls Avery. "Now it's second nature. It's just, 'This is what we do. What charity are we choosing this year?' It's the way it should be."

BRAND X PICTURES/THINKSTOCK

Another added benefit of making a donation to charity is the tax benefits, although research shows this is only a small motivating factor for people.

With around 80,000 charities in Canada, choosing one (or a few) to donate to can be a challenge. Charters recommends checking out charities' annual reports and their websites to get a better idea of the work they are doing and the sort of impact they are having. Also, don't hesitate to contact the organization for additional information.

"An organization that's doing great work is usually proud to talk about what they are up to," says Charters.

One important thing to determine is whether an organization is actually a charity. To verify this, the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) recommends people ask a charity for its registration number and then confirm its status by accessing CRA's charities listing on its website (cra-arc.gc.ca) or by phoning CRA.

Give the gift of wishes this holiday season
Shop from the Catalogue of Wishes
Children's Wish
Honour the special people on your gift list and help create the magic of a wish!
Visit www.CatalogueOfWishes.ca today

CHILDREN'S WISH GRANTS WISHES IN RECORD NUMBERS

Last year, The Children's Wish Foundation of Canada granted wishes to more children with a life- threatening illness than in any other year in its history. Approximately 1,100 children and their families got a reprieve from difficult treatments, therapies and hospital stays, and shared in the positive experience, hope and courage that a wish can bring.

"2011 is shaping up to be another record year for granting wishes," commented Regan Ludlow, Acting Director of Wishes for Children's Wish. "Virtually every month this year has seen a record number of children approved to receive their most heartfelt wish."

"We are very privileged to be able to have such a positive impact on the lives of the children we serve and their families," notes Children's Wish CEO, Chris Kotsopoulos, "and we look forward to continuing our tradition of never refusing a wish to an eligible child."

The cost of granting wishes to all children approved this year is expected to exceed $11 million, placing greater importance on expanding the Foundation's engagement with volunteers and donors over the holiday season through such diverse avenues as The Catalogue of Wishes (catalogueofwishes.ca).

The Children's Wish Foundation of Canada is the country's only all-Canadian, national wish-granting organization with chapter offices in every province. The Foundation relies entirely on the generosity of their donors and volunteers to grant children their wishes. For more information about The Children's Wish Foundation of Canada, visit childrenswish.ca.

Paige was granted her wish to have her very own playhouse by Children's Wish

HOLIDAY GIVING GUIDE:
A NEW LOOK AT HOLIDAY MONEY MYTHS

PEOPLE WHO BELIEVE MONEY CAN'T BUY HAPPINESS MIGHT BE SURPRISED AT HOW MUCH JOY YOU CAN BUY

A gift from World Vision Canada's 2011 holiday catalogue comes with a guarantee to change lives, including your own. Consider these twists on some old chestnuts.

FACT OR FICTION?
HEALTH IS BETTER THAN WEALTH
Health is, of course, invaluable. That's what makes a gift of health-care essentials worth more than a fortune in a developing country. For just $100, you (or a group of co-workers or family members) can stock a medical clinic with vital supplies like antibiotics, mosquito nets and vaccines. No wonder it's one of World Vision's most popular gifts: Canadians stocked nearly 10,000 medical clinics last year alone.

FACT OR FICTION?
MONEY DOESN'T GROW ON TREES
Answer: not literally, of course. But the miraculous moringa tree might as well sprout cash. Often referred to as the "miracle tree," the moringa grows throughout Africa and Latin America; its leaves and stems are exceptionally nutritious, and they yield cleansers, medicines and fibres that families can sell. For $125, you can buy a family a future.

FACT OR FICTION?
IT TAKES MONEY TO MAKE MONEY
Absolutely true – and perhaps no truer than when a gift takes a family or even a community from dire poverty to sustainability. One of World Vision Canada's most popular gift is two hens and a rooster, which cost $50 and provide not only high-protein food for families but a source of income. You can also purchase goats, beekeeping kits, a fish farm… the list goes on.

FACT OR FICTION?
MONEY CAN'T BUY ME LOVE
No? By sponsoring a child in a developing country for just $35 a month, 415,000 Canadians have discovered friends, made a difference and found the joy of a gift that comes from the heart.
To shop visit worldvision.ca/gifts

THE PERFECT STOCKING STUFFER!

Want to buy a gift on behalf of a loved one?

Let them do their own shopping with a World of Change Giving Card, which they can use to purchase gifts from the World Vision Canada gift catalogue.

BE THE DIFFERENCE
for a child this Christmas.

World Vision

Shop the World Vision Gift Catalogue and change the lives of children, families and entire communities.

You can be the difference between sickness and health, hunger and nutrition, hopelessness and opportunity.

Come together with other Canadians.
Give gifts that change lives.

Go to **worldvision.ca/gifts**
or call **1 800-844-7993**

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$45 (1685)

Educate a girl
$60 (2469)

3 soccer balls
$30 (1909)

3 warm blankets
$30 (1891)

4273389

4 sports

Quoted

"I was told it looks good on me. And I can tell you it feels real good on me."
COREY CHAMBLIN, WHO WAS ANNOUNCED AS THE SASKATCHEWAN ROUGHRIDERS' NEW HEAD COACH YESTERDAY WHILE WEARING THE TEAM'S LOGO ON HIS TIE. THE 34-YEAR-OLD FROM BIRMINGHAM, ALA., WAS A CANDIDATE FOR THE POST FOLLOWING THE 2010 SEASON BUT THE JOB ULTIMATELY WENT TO GREG MARSHALL, WHO WAS THEN HAMILTON'S DEFENSIVE CO-ORDINATOR. CHAMBLIN IN TURN TOOK OVER FOR MARSHALL ON THE DEFENSIVE SIDE OF THE BALL FOR THE TIGER-CATS THIS PAST SEASON.

"I just pinpointed the guy I wanted and got it done."
RIDERS GM BRENDAN TAMAN ON CHAMBLIN.

JOHN WOODS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Capitals goaltender Michal Neuvirth and defenceman Roman Hamrlik stop Jets forward Kyle Wellwood at MTS Centre Thursday night.

Capitals find way to win in Winnipeg

Sniper Ovechkin the difference as Jets lose at home for first time since Nov. 29 Washington pulls ahead of Winnipeg for 2nd place in Southeast

Alex Ovechkin scored with 1:14 left in regulation Thursday as the Washington Capitals defeated the Winnipeg Jets 1-0.

Ovechkin took a drop pass from Marcus Johansson at the Winnipeg blueline and fired a shot through Ondrej Pavelec's pads for his 10th of the season.

Michal Neuvirth made 26 saves for his first shutout of the campaign, while Pavelec stopped 27 shots in taking the loss.

Washington (16-13-1) was coming off a 5-1 home loss to Philadelphia on Tuesday, while the Jets (14-13-4) had their five-game home winning streak snapped.

It was the third of six meetings this season between the Southeast Division rivals. The Jets beat Washington in Winnipeg and lost on the road in overtime.

CAPITALS	JETS
1	0

Neuvirth was forced to make a number of big saves in the first period as the Jets outshot the Capitals 14-7 and had the lone power play.

Winnipeg had two more power plays in the second, but only put one shot on Neuvirth with the man advantage.

65
Washington's Alex Ovechkin has racked up 65 points in his career versus the Winnipeg/Atlanta franchise, more than any other team he's played against since 2005-06.

Washington, which also had a power play in the second, sent 12 shots at Pavelec, who was making his 27th start of the season.

Ovechkin, who was booed every time he touched the puck, didn't have a shot on goal until late in the second period.

The teams traded power plays in the third period, but the Jets didn't even get one shot on Neuvirth with their advantage.

The Capitals went ahead on shots on goal late in the third, but Pavelec kept them out with a couple of big saves before Ovechkin's winner.

Washington, which is now 4-4-0 under new head coach Dale Hunter, plays in Colorado on Saturday.

Jets forward Jim Slater was playing in his 400th NHL game, all with the Winnipeg/Atlanta franchise.

The Jets host Anaheim on Saturday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Pronger done for season

The Philadelphia Flyers say captain Chris Pronger will miss the rest of the season with "severe post-concussion syndrome."

The decision was made after the 37-year-old was examined in Pittsburgh by doctors John Maroon and Mickey Collins, who also treated Penguins star Sidney Crosby.

"Chris will continue to receive treatments and therapy with the hope that he can get better," Flyers general manager Paul Holmgren said in a release Thursday.

Pronger has missed the Flyers' last 11 games since coming down with what the team first described as a virus and later changed to post-concussion symptoms.

The bruising defenceman also took a stick in the eye from Toronto's Mikhail Grabovski in late October that resulted in facial trauma and caused him to miss six games.

Pronger has one goal and 11 assists in 13 games this season.

The Dryden, Ont., native, who won gold medals with Canada at the 2002 and 2010 Olympics, signed a seven-year contract with the Flyers in 2009.

He also won the Stanley Cup with the Anaheim Ducks in 2007.

He has 157 goals and 541 assists in 1,167 career regular-season games in 18 seasons with Hartford, St. Louis, Edmonton, Anaheim and Philadelphia.

Pronger joins a long list of NHL players suffering from concussions or concussion-like symptoms this season. Crosby returned to action last month for the first time since early January, but has since suffered a setback.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

JIM MCISAAC/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Chris Pronger

The Finnish Flash comes back

Selanne looks forward visiting city where his NHL career began **41-year-old leads Anaheim in scoring**

Teemu Selanne is eager to return to the city where he was dubbed the Finnish Flash.

"The memories that I have, I'm very excited," the 41-year-old right-winger said earlier this week in a conference call ahead of his Anaheim Ducks' visit to Winnipeg on Saturday.

"It's going to be a very special day there and I can't wait."

Selanne started his NHL career with the old Winnipeg Jets in 1992, and his 76 goals and 132 points in that season still stand as a rookie record, earning him a Calder Trophy.

He says he marked his calendar with the Winnipeg date as soon as the schedule came out and still has friends in the city. Selanne says he also enjoys spotting his old former Jets No. 13 jersey in a crowd.

"The memories I have from there were so awesome," he said.

One memory that he doesn't relish is the day Winnipeg traded him to the Ducks in 1996, just before the Jets moved to Phoenix to become the Coyotes.

Coming from Finland, he was used to players staying with the same team for their whole career.

He says he was told at the time not to worry about trade rumours and that he would stay with the team as it moved. Instead, he was traded for Chad Kilger, Oleg Tverdovsky and a third-round draft pick.

"The first couple of days I was just totally shocked about what happened," said Selanne.

GLENN CRATTY/ALLSPORT

▶ Teemu Selanne in 1994.

"It was kind of a weird business to realize and face that there's no feelings and you can get traded any time and there's no control with that. That was a big adjustment here."

He moved to San Jose in 2000-01, spending three seasons with the Sharks and another with the Colorado Avalanche before returning to Anaheim for the 2005-2006 season.

Last summer, when he was a free agent, the new Winnipeg Jets came calling and he decided to stay put, if he was going to play at all — something he says he has been pondering every season for about the last five.

"The biggest question right now is if I can play, not where I'm going to play," he says. "I was very honoured that they called but it's too late to move."

His 29 points this season lead the Ducks in scoring.

As for playing next season, he says that's a decision he'll make when this campaign ends.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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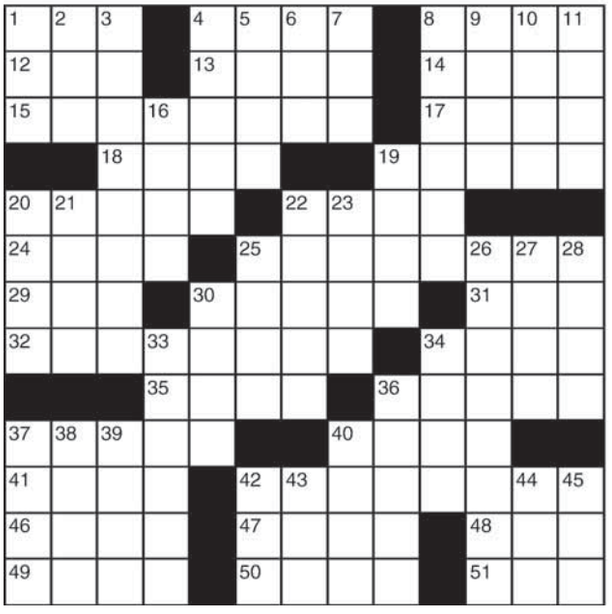
Draw dates October 11, November 1, December 1, January 1, February 1, and March 1.

Crossword



Across

1 Humongous
4 Unfriendly
8 Took to the skies
12 Commotion
13 Eye layer
14 Emanation
15 1849 California event
17 Commotion
18 Campus digs
19 Trusty mount
20 "Yippee!"
22 Create
24 Equal
25 Shirk work
29 Mess up
30 Analogy mark
31 Have debts
32 Paris airport eponym
34 Winter transport
35 Guitars' smaller kin
36 Director Almodóvar
37 Put into words
40 Complaint
41 Stead
42 Source of wealth
46 Teensy bit
47 Vicinity
48 Junior
49 Former European capital
50 Sailing vessel
51 Day divs.

Down

1 Satchel
2 Bachelor's final utterance
3 Cohort of Behar and Hasselbeck
4 Pungent dish in Indian cuisine
5 Egg
6 "— Miserables"
7 Doo follower
8 Zip up, maybe
9 Troubadour's instrument
10 Great Lake
11 Actress Sela
16 Entryway
19 Epidermis
20 Newspaper page
21 Present
22 Shopping centers
23 Lotion additive
25 Beauty spot
26 Pepperidge Farms favorites
27 Basin accessory
28 Start over
30 Potential pickle, for short
33 Fall
34 Appear
36 Go by bicycle
37 Thick slice
38 One of The Jackson 5
39 A billion years (Var.)
40 Huffed and puffed
42 Festive
43 Man-mouse link
44 Neither mate
45 Type measures

▶ Yesterday's answer

S	T	O	P		A	N	D		F	L	A	B
P	E	R	U		L	E	I		R	A	G	E
E	A	S	T		P	E	P		O	V	E	N
C	R	O	U	C	H		L	A	Z	E		
			P	I	A	N	O	B	E	N	C	H
C	O	C	O	A		E	M	U		D	U	E
L	O	O	N		E	V	A		H	E	R	R
U	Z	I		A	X	E		A	O	R	T	A
B	E	N	C	H	P	R	E	S	S			
		C	O	A	L		S	P	A	R	S	E
A	R	I	A		O	P	S		N	O	O	N
L	I	D	S		I	R	A		N	A	R	D
P	O	E	T		T	O	Y		A	R	T	S

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

Sudoku

		6		1			9	
						7		
1	4	2	8	7				5
2		5	3			1		
				5				
		3			6	2		8
3				8	1	6	2	7
		8						
	5			3		4		

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

3	2	5	9	6	4	7	8	1
8	1	9	2	7	3	4	6	5
4	7	6	8	5	1	9	2	3
7	9	3	6	1	8	5	4	2
2	8	4	3	9	5	1	7	6
6	5	1	4	2	7	8	3	9
1	6	2	7	8	9	3	5	4
5	4	7	1	3	6	2	9	8
9	3	8	5	4	2	6	1	7

Send a KISS

You can now post your kiss, and read even more kisses, online at metronews.ca/kiss.

Vivu. I can't imagine my very existence w/o u. U r in my soul u r in my blood. May santa shower unstopabble happiness this X-mas on you my love .Miss u soooooooooo muchhh... **MUKNVIVIAN**

Noah, I love you so much, every single moment with you is absolutely perfet. This summer is going to be a dream come true and I can't wait to wake up next to you every day. We can do this... Even if our fridge doesn't make its own ice. I will always be yours, forever and always. **ALLIE**

The man I need to let go, Well, I finally get the message that it is over, after 6 months of no contact at all. I tried with no success, so I want to wish you a Merry Christmas and the very best of 2012. **STILL HURTING A LOT**

A look at the weather

TODAY	THURSDAY	THURSDAY
Min -19°	Min -7°	Min -10°
Max -10°	Max -2°	Max -4°

Jenna Khan, Weather Specialist

"Weather impacts everything we do. Providing the information you need before you head out that door and take on the day is the best part of my morning." **WEEKDAYS 5:30 AM**

BT BREAKFAST TELEVISION

Today's horoscope

♈ Aries March 21-April 20 It's a good day for working your way through a pile of work, but it is not a good day for taking risks.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21 Someone will come to you for advice today. Make sure he or she knows you can only help so much.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 Someone you trust will let you down today but it could turn out to be a blessing in disguise.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 A great weight is about to be lifted from your shoulders and once it has, you'll feel lighter than air.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23 Career issues and money matters could be a bit tense over the next 24 hours.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 All experience is good experience and a bad experience will teach you some important life lessons.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 If you throw yourself at the first challenge that comes along today, you'll be short of energy for a bigger challenge that is coming up.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 You have talent to reach the top, but whether you have motivation will become clear in the next few days.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 The Sun remains in your sign until the 22nd. Between now and then, you must go all out to better yourself in every possible way.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 If you believe you have been hard done by, suffer in silence, for now.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 Loved ones and work colleagues will make demands today. Don't do so much that you exhaust yourself.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20. Like it or not, today you'll have to deal with someone for whom you have a distaste. **SALLY BROMPTON**

KERSTIN JOENSSON, FILE/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Caption contest

CHRIS O'MEARA/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Acadia National Park, Maine – It's green roads ahead and to-do lists behind in the 2012 Chevrolet Equinox. And, with best-in-class fuel efficiency, the only thing you'll be stopping for is a breath of fresh air.

1. Removed bush on the left side of image. 2. Removed tunnel behind the 2012 Chevrolet Equinox. 3. Removed brick from bridge above the 2012 Chevrolet Equinox. 4. Added tree above the bridge. 5. Removed stripe in the road. 6. Added a rock below the bridge. 7. Added an indent to the top of the bridge. 8. Removed a brick in the bridge to the right of the 2012 Chevrolet Equinox. 9. Added grass to the right of the road. 10. Turned on the fog lights on the 2012 Chevrolet Equinox

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